

00001

1 WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 Nulato Tribal Hall
5 Nulato, Alaska
6 October 4, 2000
7 8:30 o'clock a.m.
8
9

10 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

11
12 Ronald Sam, Chairman
13 Henry Deacon
14 Angela Demientieff
15 Samson Henry
16 Benedict Jones
17 Jack Reakoff
18 Michael Stickman
19
20 Coordinator: Vince Mathews, Donald Mike

00002

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I would like to
4 call the Western Interior Subsistence Council meeting to
5 order. It's now 9:08. We have a new mic system in front
6 of us so we have on and off buttons to use and how are we
7 doing over there

8
9 REPORTER: Fine.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Fine, okay. How is our
12 audience, Stanley, are you doing fine, you can hear?

13
14 STANLEY: I can't hear.

15
16 (Laughter)

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I heard that Ray
19 Collins wouldn't be making it to this meeting, he's kind of
20 busy. He's from McGrath. Both Henry Deacon and Benedict
21 Jones - Henry Deacon from Grayling and Benedict Jones from
22 Koyukuk will be in a little later, they're on the river on
23 their way in. So I'd like to get some of this preliminary
24 stuff out of the way and Vince would you take roll?

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. On the
27 sound system, if anybody needs any hearing jacks or
28 whatever, here they are and then you plug it in on the side
29 and then you're on the same system. The way the system
30 works is when the light's on, the speaker in front of you
31 does not work, okay. So when the light is off you'll be
32 able to hear everything from that speaker in front of you.
33 And if it needs adjusting just let us know.

34
35 Okay, Ron Sam.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Here.

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Ray Collins. Ray Collins
40 called me, he's not going to make it. He originally
41 planned on coming but after reviewing the travel, he felt
42 that five days of travel for a two day meeting was just too
43 much for him at this time. HE wanted me to share with the
44 Council his regrets and apologizes for that, but he needs
45 to finish his home and feels that maybe in the future
46 travel could be less.

47
48 Jack Reakoff.

49
50 MR. REAKOFF: Here.

00003

1 MR. MATHEWS: Carl Morgan.

2
3 MR. MORGAN: Here.

4
5 MR. MATHEWS: Angela Demientieff.

6
7 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Here.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Benedict was already
10 noted by the Chair, is en route. Henry Deacon. Okay, he's
11 here and will show up. Michael Stickman.

12
13 MR. STICKMAN: Here.

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Samson Henry.

16
17 MR. HENRY: Here.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman you have a
20 quorum.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Vince,
23 could you -- since we just took the roll, we're pretty well
24 established and we will be addressing you under our Council
25 member concerns again, so could you go into introductions
26 for the Staff that's here.

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I'll try, and
29 then I think what we'll have to do is use the mic over
30 there also. I am Vince Mathews, the Regional Coordinator
31 for Western Interior with the Fish and Wildlife Service.
32 Donald could introduce himself and then we'll just use the
33 mic, it might be the easiest.

34
35 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chairman, I'm Donald Mike,
36 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service out of Anchorage.
37 I'm the new Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council
38 Coordinator.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: If Jeff wants to start, it's
41 basically to get it on the record who's here and if you
42 could come up to the mic that will help Salena also.

43
44 MR. DENTON: Yeah, I'm Jeff Denton, BLM out
45 of Anchorage for the Anchorage Field Office.

46
47 MR. McCLELLAN: Greg McClellan, U.S. Fish
48 and Wildlife Service with the Kanuti National Wildlife
49 Refuge.

50

00004

1 MR. MAW: Jeff Maw, Gates of the Arctic
2 National Park and Preserve and Yukon Charlie Rivers,
3 National Park Service.

4
5 MR. BURR: This is John Burr with the
6 Alaska Fish and Game Sportfish Division.

7
8 MR. ANDERSEN: I'm Dave Andersen with the
9 Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence.

10
11 MR. RIVARD: I'm Don Rivard, Chief for the
12 Interior Region Division, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
13 Office of Subsistence Management.

14
15 MR. ROGERS: Good morning. I'm Randy
16 Rogers, Division of Wildlife Conservation from Fairbanks.

17
18 MR. ANDERSON: Fred Anderson with National
19 Park Service out of Fairbanks and I'm associated with Yukon
20 Charlie National Preserve, Denali and Gates of the Arctic,
21 fisheries biologist.

22
23 MR. VANIA: Tom Vania with Fish and Game,
24 I'm area management biologist for the Yukon River summer
25 season, commercial fisheries.

26
27 MR. MILLARD: Monty Millard with Fish and
28 Wildlife Service out of Fairbanks. I'm an in-season
29 fishery manager for the Yukon River.

30
31 MR. SIMMONS: My name is Rod Simmons. I'm
32 with Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm a fisheries
33 subsistence coordinator out of the Anchorage office and
34 Staff Committee Member to the Federal Subsistence Board.

35
36 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
37 Committee Member to the Federal Subsistence Board.

38
39 MR. SCHWARBER: Jim Schwarber with the
40 Sportfish Division in Fairbanks.

41
42 MR. STOUT: Glenn Stout, Department of Fish
43 and Game in Galena.

44
45 MR. GIBBONS: Brett Gibbons, Fish and
46 Wildlife Protection Troopers, Galena.

47
48 MR. HUNTINGTON: Orville Huntington from
49 the Koyukuk/Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge Complex out of
50 Huslia.

00005

1 MR. SHERROD: George Sherrod, Office of
2 Subsistence Management, anthropologist for the Interior.

3
4 MR. HOLCHESE: Jack Holchese, First Chief,
5 Huslia Tribal Council, Koyukuk River Advisory Committee.

6
7 MR. NED: Stanley Ned, Tanana Chiefs.

8
9 MR. YASKA: George Yaska, Tanana Chiefs.

10
11 MR. CHASE: Ken Chase, Chairman of the GASH
12 Committee, Anvik, Graying, Holy Cross, Shageluk.

13
14 MR. EVANS: Albert Evans, Nulato Advisory
15 Board.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anybody else want to
18 introduce themselves? I would like to recognize Eddie
19 Hildebrand of Nulato, one of the elders here. And I'll
20 turn the mic over to Vince, Willie.

21
22 MR. GOODWIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
23 name's Willie Goodwin, I'm from Kotzebue. I'm the Chair
24 for the Northwest area Regional Advisory Council. Thank
25 you for inviting me.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Willie. Sorry
28 about that but I did, on behalf of the Western Interior,
29 invited Willie to address a few concerns with his
30 overlapping and it would be addressing us at the time as we
31 go through the agenda. Did we have an elder, Vince, to
32 speak?

33
34 MS. HILDEBRAND: This is my father, Eddie
35 Hildebrand, elder from Nulato.

36
37 MR. HILDEBRAND: I'm Eddie Hildebrand from
38 Nulato, I've lived here all my life. And in my lifetime I
39 saw a lot of changes in the country, game, economy and
40 everything else, and I think that's what you guys are here
41 for, to straighten some of this out and get it on the right
42 track. I think what's been going on has been getting out
43 of hand with this, putting us almost into starvation, and I
44 think that's what you people are here for.

45
46 It seems like it's worse -- when I was a
47 little boy, you can go out in the country and make a living
48 and think nothing of it, you didn't have to go to a store,
49 you could live off the country. Today you can hardly do
50 it. And today, they're telling us the Natives are killing

00006

1 the country. How is the Native killing the country is what
2 I'd like to know?

3
4 When I was a little boy, my parents used to
5 take me out in the country, springtime, ducks would come in
6 like gnats, geese would come in like gnats, cranes would
7 come in like gnats. There was no beaver, there was no
8 moose. But that's the difference. We had everything else.
9 There was spruce hens, we had rabbits, ptarmigan, you name
10 it we had it. Fish, any kind of fish you wanted was there,
11 from black fish to king salmon they were there.

12
13 You know, just last week, last weekend, to
14 show you the difference, I went to Kaiyuh and I stayed over
15 night. My intentions was to get ducks and geese and I bet
16 you guys can't guess what I caught, one duck, Friday and
17 Saturday. How are we going to make a living that way?

18
19 Now, Fish and Game or somebody says, that
20 we can't use lead to kill ducks with and that's all I've
21 used all my life, lead shots and I can kill ducks anywhere,
22 any distance within range. The other day, first time in my
23 life since this thing came up, using steel shots, first
24 time in my life I used steel, there was four ducks came up
25 from here to the door in front of my boat, three of them
26 came down, one of them took off, the other two dove, I
27 couldn't find them they were hiding among the bushes and
28 everything else. Is that saving the country? That's part
29 of where you're killing the country, you're using stuff
30 that you can't kill nothing with and they expect you to use
31 that.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Eddie. I sure
36 appreciate your comments and thank you for being here and
37 addressing us. Do we have any other elders, Vince?

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: I don't think so, Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not we'll go into Council
42 member concerns and just right off the bat I would like to
43 go on record stating that I didn't receive this book until
44 this morning and would like to address this problem. We
45 discussed this briefly yesterday among ourselves and like
46 Willie Goodwin says, we'd like to get it about two weeks
47 ahead of time so we can streamline our meetings and take a
48 more comprehensive approach to our subjects that may be
49 debatable. We would like to know more about the agenda,
50 period, that way we can gear ourselves to our meetings. So

00007

1 I would like that reflected in our minutes and the record,
2 that we should receive our booklets earlier.

3
4 I have a lot of other concerns. I think
5 that most of them will be covered by our Council. If not,
6 we'll go into those as we go through this meeting.

7
8 So at this time I would like to start with
9 Sam Henry.

10
11 MR. HENRY: I've been away from Allakaket
12 for awhile, for about a year, and I haven't really seen
13 anything first hand. However, I talk with some of the
14 people, some of the elders and some people that live around
15 the area and some people in Bettles and Dow River. A lot
16 of the concerns are right now that some places were closed
17 for moose hunting and now the hunters are coming in in
18 different areas and they're kind of afraid of getting more
19 hunters and then losing more meat, moose meat.

20
21 And everybody is still concerned about
22 wanton waste. I talked with some people from Bettles and
23 there was a lot of hunters up there and there was still a
24 lot of wanton waste. We saw some caribou hunters come in
25 but no meat.

26
27 And the fish, well, by the time the fish
28 get to Allakaket, the fish is not very good. I remember
29 years ago in the late 40s you'd get about four or five fish
30 a day, you know, that was a lot. But that then I started
31 thinking about it afterwards, you know, at that time we
32 didn't have commercial fish nets. We just had home-made
33 fish nets with little, about three or four inch mesh, so
34 that might have made a difference, I don't know.

35
36 I haven't been up there for awhile so I
37 really don't know what's going on, I just talk with people.
38 That's about all I have right now.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Sam. Angela.

41
42 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Good morning everyone.
43 My concerns right now are fish. Every village I go to,
44 Anvik Grayling or Shageluk, the biggest concern is the fish
45 because they don't have any. The biggest complaint was
46 that down river fished and we didn't, and there's not
47 enough fish in our villages right now. A lot of people
48 don't have any fish in their freezers because of fishing
49 this summer.

50

00008

1 And the other concern is our moose. We're
2 loosing a lot of our moose to outsiders. They're coming in
3 by boat loads and there's all this meat that's all black
4 and ugly just sitting in their boats. There was one of the
5 guides who had five moose in his boat and was all black
6 meat and nobody could eat it and here people are needing to
7 get their moose meat and the guides over there are just
8 dumping it at our dump.

9
10 The other concerns are, what are we going
11 to do next year? You know, is there going to be any relief
12 for us in fishing? Are we going to be able to get any
13 fish? What about this winter and the ones that don't have
14 the fish for the winter? We can't always eat tuna and
15 whatever other stuff there is in the stores. These are
16 elders that don't even have a fish in their freezers and
17 they're pretty worried. Things are disappearing. Game is
18 being taken out by the boat load ad we don't know where
19 it's going except to the dump. We can't even use that.

20
21 So our region is really hard hit, you know,
22 by no fish and by the big groups of hunters that are coming
23 in and taking boat loads of meat without salvaging it and
24 we don't know where it goes. And I got off the plane in
25 Anchorage about three weeks ago, there was three of us from
26 our area and the guy who came off the plane had this huge
27 rack of horns and so he brought the horns out, so we waited
28 and watched him and where's the meat, he never had one box
29 of meat, not even a cooler of meat, all he was worried
30 about was those big horns that he was taking out. And this
31 guy boarded in Aniak and got off in Anchorage. So we're
32 really worried.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Angela. The
37 minutes will reflect that Benedict Jones just walked in.

38
39 (Benedict Jones - present)

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl Morgan.

42
43 MR. MORGAN: Good morning. The concerns
44 that I've got, in my capacity, I'm in a kind of unique
45 situation. I cover most of eastern and cover central, and
46 the western Interior. But I'm sounding like a broken
47 record and I guess if you look back at the minutes, I
48 think, the Council member before me or Council members in
49 the past, I think maybe '95, '94 their concern then was
50 predator control and I think it might have been even

00009

1 earlier in the state and we're still wrestling the problem
2 of predator control. It's getting worse not better. When
3 I say worse not better, you look at 19(D) east and you tell
4 the people up in that area that in pre-1996 the population
5 of moose was 6,000, the last count was maybe 12 to 1,400,
6 you know, we've had that predator control on our minutes,
7 it's time to take action. I think somebody's got to do it,
8 whether it be the Feds or the States. We're relying on
9 public opinion that dictate what we should do. I don't
10 know who's public opinion or broad public opinion, is it
11 the state of Alaska's public opinion or New York or
12 California's public opinion? I realize we've got to do
13 something with this situation. It's not a -- I think we
14 can still take a handle on it, there's some other states
15 that do have predator control, Arizona on their antelope --
16 no, not the antelope, the sheep. Arizona implemented a
17 predator control that flies, they shoot from the plane,
18 coyotes, shot from the plane and then their long-horn is in
19 the best shape ever. So you see predator control does
20 work.

21
22 So it's controversial, implement it, it
23 works, it's getting to the point.

24
25 And another concern that I see along the
26 river is what's happening to our salmon. That's been in
27 the books for awhile and now that we've got it, the Federal
28 system got certain aspects of it, I think we should start
29 taking a very serious look. I sit in some working group
30 meetings on the Kuskokwim, I sit there as a representative
31 from the Western Interior on the Kuskokwim, I just sit
32 there and listen. I'm an advisory, no voting right. And I
33 want to say we've -- if we're going to take over the
34 fishery, if we're going to do the management of game in
35 Federal land or water, let's start doing something.

36
37 The time to talk is over, it's time to take
38 a step forward, take a new direction.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. Benedict
43 Jones.

44
45 MR. JONES: Good morning. My name's
46 Benedict Jones from Koyukuk. I don't have too much to
47 report on concern. But I'm really pleased this year that
48 the drawing permit for the Koyukuk River controlled use
49 area was satisfactory to our people. There was a lot less
50 hunting pressure in the Koyukuk River this year -- travel

00010

1 to Huslia just a week or so before the season closed, I
2 counted only 25 camps between Kateel and Dulbi Slough,
3 which is about 35 miles below Huslia. So last year, we
4 couldn't even -- every bend from Kateel on up, every bend
5 there was about five to 10 boats on ever bend, and
6 everywhere we hunted, last year, every lake that we think
7 there was moose we saw peoples standing in the grass. But
8 this year I was really pleased that there was a lot less
9 hunting pressure.

10
11 And I'm kind of pleased with the early
12 subsistence hunt in August. A lot of peoples got their
13 moose early before the people -- hunting pressure came on.

14
15 As for predators, as you heard yesterday
16 that Glenn Stout reported that there was 41 black bears
17 killed, which is good. Good calf survival for us,
18 hopefully next year. As I traveled to Huslia, I counted 21
19 moose and out of the 21 I only saw three bulls and the rest
20 is all cows and calves. And I only seen two cows with twin
21 calves, the rest were all single calves. And like
22 everybody said, we need predator control which is wolves.
23 In Three Day Slough area is the most heavily populated for
24 wolves. There's been reports that one pack has 22 wolves
25 in the pack and the rest are seven to 15 in a pack and
26 there' several packs of wolves in that area. As for the
27 Koyukuk area and the Galena area this past winter, we
28 caught about 30 wolves averaged every year, annually, so
29 the Galena and Koyukuk area, the moose population is
30 stabilized now. There was more moose caught between
31 Koyukuk and Galena area this year for local hunters.

32
33 And as for fishing, I'd like to see that we
34 get more handle from the Yukon River Drainage people to
35 have control of the subsistence fishing. As we stated
36 early in January at that meeting that something has to be
37 done to manage our salmon where we can get better control
38 in the management. As this year -- they kept advising us,
39 they'd give us false reports on the coastal area that there
40 was an abundance of king coming which didn't show up in
41 this area. And as for the fall chums, it was real poor
42 this year. They closed by emergency closure early. I went
43 up the Gisasa just when I made the trip to Huslia, I
44 stopped in there and went up to the weir side to see if I
45 could see any coho and fall chum in that area, due to the
46 high water and rain all summer, that gravel bottom is just
47 full of silt so it might have an affect in the spawning for
48 this fall. I don't know what effects there're going to be.
49 As far as I can -- up to the weir side is full of silt
50 where it used to be you could see the gravel but not this

00011

1 year.

2

3 That's all I have to report. Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. At
6 this time I would like the minutes and record to reflect
7 the arrival of Henry Deacon.

8

9 (Henry Deacon - present)

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: And I see the coffee pot
12 light is on so feel free to help yourself to coffee at any
13 time. We do have a good sound system so you're not
14 disturbing us. The coffee light is on so help yourself to
15 coffee.

16

17 Jack Reakoff.

18

19 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
20 moose in the upper drainages of the Koyukuk seem to be
21 fewer in number this year. The people in our area had a
22 considerably harder time finding moose. The moose that I
23 seen were pretty thin and very thin in springtime. We had
24 a deep snow year and the moose had a real hard winter. And
25 they're still, the cows, the color of the cows shows that
26 they're still pretty skinny. They didn't really come back
27 real well this spring. There's very few calves this year,
28 probably only about one out of three cows had any kind of a
29 calf with it, no twin calves.

30

31 And we've had a lot of hunters. My main
32 concern for this area is that Fish and Game continues to
33 send more and more bow hunters up the Dalton Highway.
34 There was an article in the Daily News Miner back in August
35 and I have that article in my brief here. And it was
36 discussing the test that they give the bow hunters. Well,
37 the testing proficiency to pass the test was only 62.5
38 percent in the kill zone and they were real lax on even
39 trying to maintain where they would hit in the kill zone.
40 If "it nicked a lung" they considered that a passing shot.
41 Anybody that goes to school, if you get 62.5 percent on a
42 test you flunk the test. So my main concern is the
43 inconsistency of these bow tests and sending more and more
44 hunters that are inproficient, we have a high military
45 turnover. It states in the article that that's the main
46 people that are going for these tests. These people are
47 novice hunters and the proficiency should be extremely
48 stringent. This bow hunting thing is not an overflow
49 valve, it's not a good way to blow off all the extra
50 hunters up into a marginal area. And I was displaced from

00012

1 places that I could hunt. There was so many hunters I
2 couldn't hunt in certain places, they chased all the game
3 away.

4
5 So I'm getting a little perturbed with the
6 attitude that they can send an unending stream of hunters
7 up into that area.

8
9 Another concern that I have is I went to a
10 user conflict meeting in Shungnak, I went with Park Service
11 over there and talking about transporters. And this
12 transporter thing is getting way out of control. It was
13 stated in that meeting by one of the transporters that
14 flies considerable amounts of hunters, that if he didn't,
15 you know, we talked about trying to cut them down, the
16 number of people that they fly, he says, well, if I don't
17 do it somebody else is going to do it. I think the
18 managers are going to have to realize that on -- at least
19 on Federal lands, that they're going to have to limit the
20 number of hunters that are eligible to go -- that
21 transporters can take and then divide those numbers of
22 hunters up between the transporters and start limiting the
23 numbers of people that can be flown out. You can't have
24 just -- well, I know one of those transporters, he had a
25 pilot quit because he felt that it was unethical to keep
26 bringing people to the same place bombarding the same lakes
27 with people, camp after camp all season long.

28
29 So there are ongoing issues that we've
30 talked about before but they still are issues.

31
32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Micki.

35
36 MR. STICKMAN: I have a bunch of concerns.
37 It was just like Eddie said, you know, it used to be
38 everything here out in the country. When you walk out
39 there in the country, you see everything, you know. Well,
40 over here in the Kaiyuh Flats, the Fish and Wildlife
41 managers, the managers for Fish and Game, they say, oh,
42 there's 10 to 15,000 moose over there, you don't have to
43 worry but I've been around through the slough, from the
44 mouth of the slough to where it comes out down 22 miles
45 below Kaltag and I went through there twice and I didn't
46 see very much moose while I was going through there, you
47 know. I could have probably kill a couple cows if I wanted
48 to kill a cow, but every time I saw a cow it had a real
49 small calf or some of them had two calves, so I never shot
50 nothing. You know, I went around there twice and spent

00013

1 five days out there.

2

3 Didn't see hardly any ducks, you know,
4 maybe about nine ducks for three days of hunting. Didn't
5 get any geese, you know, so if there's 10 to 15,000 moose
6 over there you can't see it when you're on the slough. And
7 I wouldn't want to back into the flats because I don't know
8 that country too well and you go back there, you're going
9 to get lost. So, you know, they're always saying there's a
10 lot of moose but we just don't see it out there.

11

12 As far as fish issues, you know, this year
13 there was, as far as king salmon, you know, king salmon is
14 like our primary target fish for as far as subsistence it's
15 our primary target fish for eating. We make strips and we
16 make chewing fish out of it. But this year, people, didn't
17 even get -- you know, they didn't even fulfill their
18 subsistence needs as far as king salmon was concerned. And
19 when that happens we usually rely on the silvers to fill
20 the gap there and we weren't even allowed to fish for
21 silvers this year, there was just not enough silvers there
22 for us to even try.

23

24 So for the people who rely on fish here in
25 Nulato and in Kaltag and in Koyukuk, you know, these people
26 are going to be short of fish this year. You know, any
27 time people are short on food, you know, it hurts the whole
28 community. It's just not very good for a person to be
29 missing out on their subsistence needs.

30

31 That's about the only concerns that I have.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki. At this
34 time I would like our minutes to reflect the presence of
35 Harvey Williams, Kanuti Wildlife Refuge, he just walked in.

36

37 (Harvey Williams - present)

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Henry Deacon.

40

41 MR. DEACON: Good morning. Sorry I was
42 late here. The most concern that we have is impact of
43 hunters and wolf. Wolves have increased and I think
44 they're killing a lot of moose during the winter. And
45 nothing's been done about it by the State or the Federal.
46 Something should be done by, according to the people's wish
47 in that area.

48

49 And the subsistence, is something that
50 should not be shut off in the fall, you know, it's the main

00014

1 purpose. That's why the fish is short, I think, is the
2 high sea fishing. That should be checked by our concern
3 from this area to the Federal. That's where our most
4 problem is, is that high sea fishing.

5
6 So with that I just want to -- there's a
7 lot of stuff that we're going to be talking about in this
8 agenda so I'll just shut off there.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Henry Deacon.
11 Willie, did you want to express a few concerns?

12
13 MR. GOODWIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
14 think our concerns in the Northwest area for the same what
15 have been voiced here. We do have a transporter problem in
16 the area up there. But fortunately 60 percent of the land
17 in our region is in Federal hands so what we are attempting
18 to do and we're going to do it is use the Federal system to
19 change the regulation to limit the number of permits that
20 are issued for transporters and limit the number of clients
21 they bring in. I've had favorable responses from Fish and
22 Wildlife Service, the BLM, and the Park Service already.
23 It just -- you know, we made this request a year and a half
24 ago, and I figured it out, they just didn't want to do it
25 but now they're going to. They're going to.

26
27 We're going to go through the process to
28 involve the transporters and guides. We've involved them
29 in the meetings we've had with the user conflict meetings
30 in Kotzebue and Shungnak. We've been trying to address the
31 problem because if you go in the Squirrel River drainage
32 where the land is managed by BLM and you count 75 tents
33 from on top and you're wondering, gee whiz, where's all the
34 moose, you know, I mean these are people that come in --
35 not only brought in by transporters but from the rest of
36 the state. They come in from Fairbanks and Anchorage areas
37 and Kenai.

38
39 We're trying to address that problem in
40 that manner. We have a working group that have been
41 talking about the caribou herd because it's at its peak,
42 you know, we have a half million of those critters walking
43 around up there right now in our area. And you're welcome
44 to any of them that come this far. Our people know from
45 traditional knowledge that there's going to be a crash.
46 You know, my grandfather who lived to be 94 years old, he
47 saw two of these crashes in his lifetime, the crash of the
48 caribou herd in our area. So we're expecting it to happen
49 again. Biologists say they're in good shape, nothing's
50 going to happen but, you know, traditional knowledge, I

00015

1 think, is going to override biology on this one. So we
2 know it's going to happen. To what extent we don't know
3 because now we have the tool to limit the crash a little
4 bit.

5
6 Hopefully with predator control we can slow
7 it down. I know when it crashed before they instituted a
8 predator program up there in our area, they used poison.
9 My dad used to tell me where not to go pick berries or go
10 hunt because the poison was put in that area by the Federal
11 agencies, mind you, back then, but now they can't do it, so
12 there's something wrong there. Now, they don't want to do
13 it but they did it before, and the caribou are still there.
14 They didn't poison all of them or the wolves. So I think
15 that predator control is an issue that has to be addressed.
16 I think what we need to do, if there are Federal lands are
17 involved, that we got to use the regulatory process they
18 have to make sure that the protection of the subsistence
19 resources that people use are taken care of using their
20 regulatory process for predator control.

21
22 They can do it. They've done it. Why
23 can't they do it again? The only problem we're going to
24 have is with the Park Service, you know, that's one agency
25 that says, no predator control. But I think they can.
26 That's what I think.

27
28 Mr. Chairman, as we go through your agenda
29 I will bring up some of the other concerns that we have
30 also.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Willie. Again, I
35 invited especially Orville Hunting and Willie to be in
36 attendance at our meeting and I'd like to thank you for
37 stating your concerns at this time and we will be
38 addressing you and our individual topics that overlap.
39 Again, thank you, Willie.

40
41 I have quite a few concerns. I do not have
42 the answers at this time, however, I will express them at
43 this time.

44
45 Number 1, I would like to thank Micki and
46 the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee for having us in
47 attendance yesterday at their meeting. One of the issues
48 that came out was how do we recognize our other tribal task
49 force and our other advisory committees and councils? This
50 issue has to be addressed sooner or later. And as I

00016

1 stated, we will have another Koyukuk River Advisory
2 Committee meeting up at Allakaket, we're in the process of
3 setting it up for the last two or three days in October.

4
5 We'd like to, at this time to invite Tanana
6 Chiefs and the tribal task force members if they can find
7 funding. I'm pretty sure that they will have members from
8 all villages in attendance and I think that we have to
9 address this issue of subsistence.

10
11 Many of you know at this time that AFN and
12 AITC is having the same problem. AFN is forming its own
13 separate subsistence committee and AITC is in total
14 opposition of this. I know they have teleconferences. I
15 do not know the results. And that's one of the main
16 reasons that I want to attend AFN. I figure it will be --
17 there will be quite some discussion and possible debates on
18 the validity of these committees on the AFN floor. If
19 you're in attendance at AFN, I would like you to listen in
20 to that group and find out what the final results are. We
21 are fortunate that AFN is having their meeting before our
22 meeting up in Allakaket so we may gain some insight or find
23 out how to address this issue. You a nice and easy way.

24
25 As many of you know here, we had a
26 teleconference, the Federal Subsistence Board and opened up
27 the subsistence moose season early and one of the topics
28 that kept coming up was putting one species over another.
29 I think when we do take these special actions, we will have
30 to reflect in our decisions how we prioritize the taking of
31 one species over another, and we'll have to take a closer
32 look on that. Because we didn't have the fish run that
33 people are accustomed to, our locals will have to depend
34 more on moose and we'll have to keep a close watch on that.

35
36 At this time I'm happy to report in the
37 Upper Alatna River, people got quite a few caribou so we do
38 have another species there to depend on and right outside
39 the village of Allakaket they got a couple of caribou about
40 a week ago. So that may be a good sign of things to come.
41 That way we won't put all our burden and our harvest on
42 moose. Again, we'll have to watch our prioritization of
43 harvest of one species over another and take close watch on
44 that.

45
46 That's about all I have. Did we miss
47 anyone? If not, can we take a two minute break to get
48 coffee?

49
50 (Everyone nods)

00017

1 (Off record)

2
3 (On record)

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I'd like to
6 call the Western Interior Regional Subsistence Council
7 meeting back to order.

8
9 As many of you know when we had our meeting
10 at Galena, we had a Kaltag elder address us at that time
11 and I see Franklin Madrose of Kaltag here, do you want to
12 address the Council on your concerns, Franklin?

13
14 MR. MADROSE: I can't hear you?

15
16 (Laughter)

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

19
20 MR. MADROSE: I smoke for 50 years and I
21 got good lungs. Yeah, good morning. My name is Franklin
22 Madrose and I'm from Kaltag. Really, I don't have no
23 concern.

24
25 You know, subsistence, you got to excuse me
26 because I speak with broken English so if you don't
27 understand me, stop me and I'll try to explain it to you
28 because, of course, I never went to school. But anyway, I
29 hear that subsistence is a big issue, I always hear that.
30 And I always say that I don't see no big issue about
31 subsistence. I want somebody to pinpoint the area where
32 we're having a problem. I always say, then we can work on
33 it from there.

34
35 You know subsistence was a problem before.
36 Before the village -- like to me, I'm speaking for
37 myself, you know, not for the community, but to me since we
38 got electricity in the village we solved the subsistence
39 issue. Because I got and other people have fish or meat
40 from last year yet which is still eatable. So that make me
41 feel like subsistence isn't a great issue. Before we get
42 electricity it was. Because what moose we get last month in
43 September or even in August, that goes spoiled because we
44 got no way to keep it so it just spoils.

45
46 And we circulated a petition one time in
47 Kaltag to try to get the second season of moose and it came
48 about, you know, later on. And, you know, that State game
49 management make me happy when they approved it. And
50 another thing in February, sometimes it get too cold to go

00018

1 out hunting. So one time we called Galena and asked them
2 to extend the hunting period and they also did that, you
3 know, and they make me happy by doing something like that
4 in our favor, you know.

5
6 But really, I'd like to see where the
7 problem is on subsistence, I do. You know, I'd like to see
8 someone pinpoint that area for me and then maybe I'd be
9 happy. Because like for myself and others as old as I am,
10 I don't qualify for food stamps and stuff like that, but my
11 boat and my snowmachine, that's my food stamps.

12
13 I think I better sign off here before I get
14 into something terrible.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, again, Franklin.
19 The next item on our agenda is the agenda additions or
20 corrections. Go ahead Vince.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I just
23 want to remind everybody to sign in. I know Ida's been
24 going around doing that, getting you to sign in. It's
25 really important to know who's here to show the level of
26 involvement.

27
28 The agenda, the only one that I've been
29 contacted since this was mailed out several weeks ago was
30 from you, Mr. Chairman, to add the open discussion of
31 travel so people could openly discuss their concerns about
32 the whole issue of the logistics of travel and all that.
33 And the only place that I could see where it could go would
34 be under number 10, number X, because that falls within the
35 Office of Subsistence management to provide your travel.
36 So those are the only ones that I've received from either
37 agencies or others.

38
39 And for those that are new to this process,
40 the agenda is sent out to all the tribal councils, village
41 councils, city councils, all the different agencies and
42 individuals that wish it. So for Western Interior, I think
43 it goes out to, between -- because I work Eastern also so I
44 may get these figures mixed, but it goes out to 170 to 200
45 individuals, this agenda, with a cover letter explaining,
46 by such and such a date to get your comments in. So just
47 so you understand that, how it goes and for those that are
48 new to the program, anybody can call in and say, I'd like
49 to add this to an agenda or I'd like this changed in the
50 agenda or something deleted. I take that note down on that

00019

1 and I pass it to the Chair and then the Chair is the one
2 that decides what goes on the final draft agenda. So
3 that's the process on agenda.

4
5 That's all I had, Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Is the
8 Adjunct General reflected on that agenda?

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman. The Major General,
11 Phillip Oates is not on the agenda. The Governor's office
12 called me before this -- after this was published, so we
13 will just have to incorporate the general when he arrives
14 around 11:00 o'clock tomorrow. He's going to discuss
15 Project Renew Hope and the disaster relief. So he's not on
16 the agenda.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. As all Council
19 members know we're pretty flexible and we make all kinds of
20 additions and subtractions whenever. Micki.

21
22 MR. STICKMAN: One of the things that we're
23 concerned about is the winter moose hunt. One of the
24 requirements for the winter moose hunt is you have to be a
25 half a mile off the river but that doesn't make any sense
26 because, you know, people who see moose on the river are
27 going to shoot it anyway. So one of the requirements for
28 the winter moose hunt is to go half a mile off the river,
29 you know, it just doesn't make any sense. You know, you
30 don't see the people in the urban areas going a half a mile
31 through the brush to get to Safeway or Fred Meyers or
32 Marketplace or anything like that so it just doesn't make
33 any sense for the locals to go a half a mile off the river
34 to shoot a moose because they're going to shoot it
35 regardless of where they see it.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thank you, Micki. If
38 you notice our agenda, under XII, State local Fish and Game
39 Advisory Committee, can we bring that up at that time?

40
41 MR. STICKMAN: Okay.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: And then maybe we can
44 possibly introduce a proposal to change that if you need?

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, he would need
47 to bring that up a little bit earlier than that because
48 we'll be looking at proposals just before that. So he
49 would need to bring it up under proposal generation and
50 then obviously there will need to be a discussion on how

00020

1 that would work through the State system because of the
2 fact that the area in question has State lands. So it
3 would be under XIB.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that fine, Micki?

6
7 MR. STICKMAN: Okay.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, generating proposals,
10 there's a good possibility there. Any further additions,
11 corrections? Again, I'd like to state that we're pretty
12 flexible, we'll have a lot of people in and out and we try
13 to stay flexible because some people like this disaster
14 relief discussion, people will be just coming in and going
15 out, so we are flexible. And in that light, the Chair will
16 entertain a motion to adopt the agenda.

17
18 MR. STICKMAN: I make a motion to adopt the
19 agenda.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

22
23 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's been moved by Micki,
26 seconded by Jack Reakoff to adopt the agenda as updated.
27 Any further discussion.

28
29 MR. MORGAN: Question.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called for.
32 All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

37
38 (No opposing votes)

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries. The next
41 item on the agenda is quite long, we have minutes of our
42 February 22nd through 24th, joint meeting with Eastern
43 Interior at Fairbanks. Do you want that a few minutes to
44 read it over? I know some of us didn't get this. The
45 minutes of the meeting in Fairbanks is under Tab B, it's
46 quite long. If you can go through it and bring up any
47 questions as you go through it, that will be fine, too, if
48 it's too long to read.

49
50 (Pause)

00021

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we did receive
2 some editorial comments on the agenda and I have them
3 somewhere, they're either on the plane on the way here but
4 they were mainly editorial comments. These were sent to
5 all the agencies as well as all the tribal groups and
6 villages and some of the staff at different agencies, which
7 I really appreciate, looked very closely at the minutes and
8 found some editorial, there was no content changes, I don't
9 think -- no, so it's just editorial where I left out a that
10 or -- I don't know how I did it but I misspelled Monty's
11 last name and little things like that But the main thing
12 is in there.

13
14 And I suppose I'm on record apologizing to
15 Monty that I misspelled his name.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince.

18
19 (Pause)

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Chair will entertain a
22 motion to adopt the minutes as presented and edited.

23
24 MR. STICKMAN: I'd like to make a motion to
25 approve the minutes from the February 22nd through the 24th
26 meeting.

27
28 MR. HENRY: (Nods affirmatively)

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second? Seconded
31 by Sam Henry. Angie.

32
33 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Mr. Chair, on Page 27 of
34 those minutes, I made the comment that in between times
35 we'd have more communications within the Council, do you
36 know if anybody has been done or is going to happen with
37 that?

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'm having a hard time
40 hearing because of that furnace. Yeah, if you look under
41 Page 27 under Angela's concern, closing comments, she
42 requested more teleconferences, I mean at least one between
43 our meetings or two. Most of the teleconferences that we
44 had was regionalized like for Koyukuk River and stuff, do
45 you still want to pursue an update on these
46 teleconferences?

47
48 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: (Nods affirmatively)

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: She nods yes. Vince.

00022

1 MR. MATHEWS: To put it in a nutshell, we
2 didn't have teleconferences with the full Council since
3 your last meeting because we've had nearly weekly
4 teleconferences of the coordinating fisheries committee to
5 address the salmon disaster on the Yukon River. And then
6 we've had almost weekly, maybe bi-weekly teleconferences
7 that Carl Morgan participated in and Ray Collins on the
8 Kuskokwim. So there really was no time or thought to put
9 together a teleconference for the full Council. And we did
10 have teleconferences on special actions for the Koyukuk
11 River. But it's something that if the Council desires, we
12 can start programming them in. But since your meeting in
13 February it has been constant board meetings and fisheries
14 meeting through until the end of August.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. My personal comments
17 are that I really don't care for teleconferences, I like to
18 see people eye-to-eye. It was pretty tough last summer
19 trying to cover all the fisheries issues and I know it put
20 a heck of a burden on Micki and Benedict, and I apologize
21 to Micki too, he's been traveling pretty steady from what I
22 heard.

23
24 Any further questions -- discussion on the
25 minutes.

26
27 MR. STICKMAN: Call for the question on the
28 minutes.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called. All
31 those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

32
33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

36
37 (No opposing votes)

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries, minutes are
40 approved. At this time the next item on our agenda is
41 fisheries regulation proposals. Are we ready to deal with
42 this, all set up?

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the way
45 we're going to do this and try to keep us on task because
46 our equipment didn't arrive, but basically I will introduce
47 the proposal, the biologist or anthropologist will give you
48 a review of the implications of the proposal and background
49 information, and then I will come back on with a summary of
50 public comments and then at that time the State is more

00023

1 than welcome to come to the table or stay at the table,
2 whichever is easiest to share their comments. I believe,
3 and they'll correct me if I got it wrong, that we have now
4 new comments from the State, Alaska Department of Fish and
5 Game, than what's in the book, so I will not summarize
6 what's in the book because they have new comments, unless I
7 misunderstood that.

8
9 So that's how we plan on doing it. So
10 they're under Tab C as in Cantwell.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are we taking these
13 proposals -- we have to take them individually, right,
14 they're all different?

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. They have
17 to be taken individually for several reasons. One is their
18 topics are separate but also we're getting our fins dried
19 or our feathers dried or whatever, this is the first time
20 we've dealt with fisheries proposals so it would be best if
21 we took these individually because we, as Staff, need to
22 get an understanding how best to present these and there
23 may be connections with in-season management and et cetera
24 on these, so we will take them up individually.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. At this
27 time the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt Proposal
28 01-32.

29
30 MR. STICKMAN: I make a motion.

31
32 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: (Nods affirmatively)

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second? Seconded
35 by Angela Demientieff.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Mr. Chairman, for all
38 the Staff to understand all the Council is doing here is
39 allowing the proposal to be on the table, it does not mean
40 they support or don't support the proposal it's just to get
41 it on the table. We may have to adjust that as we go
42 along. Sometimes you guys have made it that you passed the
43 Staff recommendation, but whatever, let's -- I'm seeing
44 faces turning my way, it is just a preliminary --
45 parliamentary procedure.

46
47 Okay, Proposal 32 is on Page 4 in your
48 book. It starts with a summary. It was submitted by
49 Angela Demientieff of Holy Cross. It is to close sport
50 fishing for pike and sheefish in the Innoko River, the

00024

1 affected areas are the mouth of the Innoko and its
2 tributaries up to 30 miles above Holikachuk -- what's that
3 pronunciation Willie -- no.

4
5 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Henry.

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: Henry would know the
8 pronunciation on that and I apologize for not getting the
9 right pronunciation in. Don Rivard will present the Staff
10 analysis,

11
12 MR. RIVARD: Good morning Mr. Chair. I'd
13 like to just start off with letting you know that many of
14 these proposals were -- the analysis were done by Richard
15 Cannon of our Staff who was under the resource division but
16 has since been switched over to the Fisheries Information
17 Service, so I'll be presenting them on his behalf.

18
19 Proposal 32, as previously mentioned was
20 submitted by Angela Demientieff and it would close the
21 Innoko River and its tributaries to subsistence fishing --
22 basically State sport fishing for northern pike and
23 sheefish from its confluence with the Yukon River to 30
24 miles upstream of the Holikachuk village site. There is no
25 existing regulation in place at this time as far as Federal
26 subsistence regulations go. Proposal 32 would address
27 fisheries resources on subsistence uses occurring on the
28 Innoko National Wildlife Refuge under Federal jurisdiction.

29
30 And we have the proposed regulation
31 language there on Page 7, the Innoko River from its
32 confluence with the Yukon River to 30 miles upstream of the
33 Holikachuk village site is closed to the taking of northern
34 pike and sheefish except by qualified rural residents.

35
36 It should be noted that there's a similar
37 proposal, No. 153, that's going in front of the Board of
38 Fisheries for this cycle. As you can see we have Map 1 of
39 Page 8 of the area. It's not a real detailed map but it
40 does go past the wildlife refuge, I believe.

41
42 The Staff preliminary recommendation is to
43 not support this proposal. The reasons being that the
44 available information documenting non-subsistence, i.e.,
45 sport fishing use indicates a low to moderate level of
46 harvest in the Innoko drainage. Populations of sheefish
47 and northern pike in these waters are believed by State and
48 Federal resource managers to be healthy, however,
49 comprehensive data on these fisheries resources and their
50 productivity are not presently available. Salmon are not

00025

1 known to spawn in the area where sport fishing occurs and
2 is unlikely that salmon spawning beds or salmon -- or
3 spawning activities are adversely impacted by the
4 recreational boat traffic. The majority of the area
5 affected by this proposal is located outside the external
6 boundaries of the two refuges and is not under Federal
7 jurisdiction, therefore, in order to restrict non-
8 subsistence fishing under State jurisdiction, the U.S.
9 Secretary of Interior would have to approve an extra-
10 territorial jurisdictional action to extend Federal
11 authority beyond the established conservation system unit
12 boundaries to address the lower Innoko River outside the
13 boundaries of the Refuge.

14
15 A closure at this time does not appear to
16 be warranted from a biological standpoint as the population
17 of sheefish and northern pike in the Innoko River drainage
18 are believed by State and Federal resource managers to be
19 healthy. While Staff recommends taking no regulatory
20 action at this time, it does recommend that fiscal year
21 2001 fisheries investigations focus attention on harvest
22 monitoring, stock status, and trends of northern pike and
23 sheefish populations of the Innoko River.

24
25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Go ahead, Vince.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, even though
30 this was the first year of fishery proposals on the Federal
31 side, this proposal did generate some public comments. We
32 have three public comments in opposition to the proposal
33 and it will be difficult to summarize them all. I will
34 give you the main points but they're in front of you on
35 Page 20, 21 and 22.

36
37 Leonard Randonin of Columbus, Texas opposes
38 the proposal. He doesn't support the proposal. He feels
39 it's entirely unnecessary and that from his fishing in the
40 area and also participating in northern pike and sheefish
41 tagging studies that there's no need for this restriction.
42 And you have his list of other items that he uses to
43 support his opposition.

44
45 Dean Nelson of Aniak also sent a letter of
46 opposition. He feels there is no biological data to
47 support the claim to the proposal and he has facts below
48 based on his review of different tagging activities in the
49 area.

50

1 The third letter of opposition was from
2 Rick Townsend of Aniak. He just wanted people to know he's
3 not in favor of the proposal. He has fished in the area
4 over 17 years and has seen no population change in the --
5 change in population or size of pike or sheefish.

6
7 So you do have their other comments there.
8 You did receive a comment that's not in the book. It came
9 in from Ron Inlow, the Chair of the Ruby Advisory Committee
10 and I don't know if the other Ron from Ruby is here, if he
11 is he can share his comments, too. I did confirm from the
12 representative of Ruby yesterday, that these comments are
13 Ron Inlow's comments because the Ruby Advisory Committee
14 has not met. But basically Mr. Inlow's comments were they
15 support a study to see if sport fishing impacts subsistence
16 use and then if a restriction is needed, then use catch and
17 release for sport fisheries except for fish to eat in camp.
18 With the decline of commercial fishing, sport fish guiding
19 can be a revenue source for Yukon River communities. And
20 then in my box that's coming in on today's plane, I
21 actually have the letter that came in from Mr. Inlow.

22
23 So with that, those are the four comments.
24 Three in opposition, one from the Ruby Advisory Committee,
25 that, it's not clear if they're in opposition or support
26 the proposal. That's all the comments I have Mr. Chair.

27
28 MR. BURR: Mr. Chairman, I've been asked by
29 the Department of Fish and Game to add some comments to the
30 proposals. The ones that were printed in the book were the
31 original comments from the original proposals. The
32 additional comments that I'm going to give for the rest of
33 the proposals are those based on Department review of the
34 proposed analysis and the Staff recommendations that are in
35 the book.

36
37 On Proposal 32. This proposal asks that
38 the Innoko River and its tributaries be closed to non-
39 subsistence fishing, sport fishing, for northern pike and
40 for sheefish. The State does not see the need for this
41 action based on the low harvest potential in the sport
42 fishery and the healthy status of the northern pike and the
43 sheefish stocks. The State agrees with the preliminary
44 Staff recommendations not to support this request. We also
45 noted that much of the area is not under the Federal
46 jurisdiction and that action would require the Federal
47 government to extend its jurisdiction. We support further
48 research on stock status of northern pike and sheefish in
49 the area.

00027

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further
4 comments. Just for general public information, I don't
5 know if it's really right or true but for Roberts Rules of
6 Order we usually make all our motions to support or pass
7 these proposals but then we can vote it down as Vince
8 stated. I don't know whether that's right but we do ask
9 that all these proposals be put on the floor by motion to
10 support or pass. That's for your information. Any further
11 discussion.

12

13 Ken Chase, the Chair will entertain Ken
14 Chase.

15

16 MR. CHASE: My name is Ken Chase, I'm from
17 Anvik, Chairman of the GASH Advisory Committee. However, I
18 am not here on this subject representing them, I'm speaking
19 strictly for myself. I do sport fish guiding, although, I
20 have never guided in this area that's under question. And
21 speaking to a lot of the area residents in Anvik and
22 Grayling is, I think, under the same problems that the Fish
23 and Game has, is we oppose -- or I oppose and a lot of
24 locals oppose this recommendation because there never has
25 been any study that we know of in the area for pike or
26 sheefish, how it affects or how many's been taken out of
27 there. And there is a good population there, we believe.
28 And the past experience, we don't want to see anything
29 closed directly because a lot of time you have problems
30 reopening it again if you do that. And we'd rather see
31 some studies on usage.

32

33 The GASH Advisory Committee did some
34 research and work and we're going to put some limits on
35 pike. I think the limit is pretty high right now, it's
36 still 10 a day or something and we're going to limit that
37 down or we've been talking about it. So I think some
38 studies need to be done on this before and we oppose this
39 -- I oppose this.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ken. Any further
44 testimony.

45

46 MR. STICKMAN: It seems like every time we
47 generate proposals, the Staff Committee always figures out
48 ways to make recommendations, but the one thing that I see
49 where they fail is that they fail to go out into the
50 general public and speak to the people that live there.

00028

1 You know, they're making regulatory changes in their area
2 and they're not out there directly speaking to the people.
3 You know, the State managers and the Federal managers, they
4 have their recommendations but, you know, they're told what
5 to do but they don't go out there and they don't get
6 general public support like they should be doing.

7
8 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki. I think
11 we can just keep bringing that problem up until we come up
12 with a better solution. Keep reminding us.

13
14 Henry Deacon.

15
16 MR. HENRY: Yeah, okay, on this proposal of
17 Innoko fishing, sport fishing, that's what it is, I think,
18 and as a resident from that area, I don't think too much of
19 sport fishing and commercializing the sport fishing in that
20 area for outside people, you know. There's a big boat that
21 goes up every summer to fish up there, they bring people
22 out and nobody knows what they do up there with the fish.
23 You know, they touch the fish and then loosen it and then,
24 you know, the fish is sick after that, you know, with the
25 hook. You know, that's never been studied. And I notice
26 now, I'm from that area and I notice that the fish is not
27 as much as it used to be.

28
29 I go out with my grandchildren and I go up
30 there and fish, we don't get fish like we used to. There's
31 something wrong with the fish now that's been turned loose
32 there. They must be spreading sickness to other fish that
33 eat them. So those are the studies that should be done.
34 And that commercialized fishing shouldn't be -- if the
35 local people say something about it, it should be honored,
36 not by the Federal and the other departments -- or the
37 State department. You know, every time we say something we
38 come up against, oh, you got enough of this, you got enough
39 of everything, you know, there's nothing to worry about.

40
41 I know I've lived in that area all my life
42 and I know what it used to be like. There was more games
43 in that part of the country when it was the way it was, you
44 know. And now it's been State and the Federal regulating
45 and bringing all the sport fishermen and the people that
46 make money out of it there, they don't care. They don't
47 care for the animals. We, as a Native people respect those
48 animals. We have to respect them if we want them around.
49 That's our culture.

50

00029

1 I don't know what to say about these when
2 we -- you say we have the power as to when we come together
3 like this, we don't have no power from what I see when we
4 ask for something. Something's got to be done in that
5 area, the proposals -- when a proposal comes from that area
6 it's got to be honored and really considered.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Henry. I got one
9 question, did your local advisory committee on the State
10 side discuss the proposal?

11
12 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: The State one.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: They did?

15
16 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: We have a State proposal.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. So it is before the
19 Board of Fisheries the?

20
21 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: (Nods affirmatively)

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. No action yet on this
24 proposal yet, right?

25
26 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: It's like Henry said
27 though, they're talking about having a catch and release
28 program under the State.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have another comment,
31 Ken.

32
33 MR. CHASE: I don't know if I made it clear
34 but the Advisory Committee is not meeting until later on
35 this month and some of the committees just now saw this
36 just a few days ago and are aware of this proposal, we
37 never saw it until the book came out. So the public, I
38 don't think, really knows. We're going to try to hold some
39 hearings on it at our next meetings. But I know a lot of
40 the guys were surprised by it, it caught us by surprise we
41 didn't see the proposal.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ken.

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chase, just
50 to make it clear to you that the Federal Board will take up

00030

1 this proposal in December. So your comments, if you get
2 them to me or to one of the Council members it will go
3 right to the Federal Subsistence Board if you meet in the
4 next month or so. The record needs to also reflect that
5 the Alaska Board of Fisheries will be taking up the
6 companion proposal in January. So our cycles are a little
7 bit different. We're taking this up in December. Board of
8 Fisheries will take up this proposal in January.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: There was a motion to adopt
11 this proposal, it was seconded, any further discussion.
12 Angela.

13
14 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes, Mr. Chair. I,
15 myself as a person, would never even dream of writing a
16 proposal if I had not listened to my own people talking all
17 the time. I would not, like I told Rich Cannon on the
18 phone, ever, you know, say something that was not true.

19
20 Our people in Holy Cross can watch one of
21 these guides or fishermen or whatever you call them, he has
22 seven boats and he has a big boat besides his seven boats,
23 and all seven are out there fishing on the Innoko. It's not
24 only these three people that made the comments that are
25 involved, there's other people, there's another outfit that
26 goes in there.

27
28 When elders come up to me and tell me the
29 fish are dying on the Innoko River, they're not just saying
30 it just to pass the time of day, they're telling the truth
31 about what they see. What I don't understand is, why we
32 get all these reports of someone who's been there maybe
33 three or four days, two or three weeks, okay, this is the
34 way it is. They're not there the whole season. They
35 don't see all the stuff that goes on. The people who are
36 living in these villages know what happens in those rivers
37 and those tributaries, in those side streams. They see the
38 fish that are lying around. They see them fillet and
39 laying on the banks.

40
41 So with that, that's the only reason I
42 would submit a proposal from listening to what everyone is
43 saying and what I saw with my own eyes.

44
45 And whenever Federal or State, whoever they
46 are come into our area, why are they not meeting with us?
47 Why aren't they talking to us? I asked that question over
48 the telephone, I gave them names in Anvik, Grayling and
49 Shageluk to contact, why weren't those people talked to? I
50 read Rich Cannon's report. He has not talked to none of

00031

1 the local people. When I submitted the proposal I also
2 sent copies to Anvik, Grayling and Shageluk corporations,
3 city councils, and traditional councils asking for support
4 and to be there when the Board of Fisheries meets in
5 December and January, on both the State proposal I
6 submitted and the Federal.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Angela. Are
11 there any further comments.

12

13 MR. STICKMAN: Ida.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida.

16

17 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
18 Committee Member. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to
19 make a statement with disagreement with the analysis. The
20 analysis says that the only way to address this is with
21 extraterritorial jurisdiction and that is totally not true.
22 The portion that is within the Refuge is Federal
23 jurisdiction, and even if you didn't close the State
24 portion, this Council could request that the Federal Refuge
25 be closed. It's just a point of clarification.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ida. Any further
28 discussion. Comments. Question.

29

30 MR. STICKMAN: Call for the question.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a call for the
33 question. All in favor of supporting this proposal,
34 signify by saying aye.

35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

39

40 (No opposing votes)

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: One of the reasons that I
43 voted yes, too, is that, I want it before the Federal
44 Subsistence Meeting in December. We will take more
45 training down in Anchorage in January, right

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: I'm lost, the December
48 meeting is the Federal Board. If you desire to have a
49 representative to the Board of Fish we can work on that, if
50 that's your question.

00032

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, we may do
2 that because I would like to see what's going on on that.

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, since this is
5 the first time we've taken up fishery proposals and as your
6 Coordinator, it would be good on the record to give reasons
7 why you support this proposal. I know that it was somewhat
8 contained within your testimony but it would be nice for
9 someone to summarize. For those that have attended Board
10 of Game and Board of Fisheries and Federal Subsistence,
11 that plays a very valuable role, your summaries when we
12 share those with those different entities. So at this time
13 it would be great if members wanted to share why they voted
14 in support of the proposal. It will help us through the
15 process.

16
17 And then one last item is, this proposal to
18 receive favorable light in front of both Boards, it would
19 be good if those tribal councils that do and village
20 councils that do support the proposals, get in written
21 comments, both to the Federal Board and the State Board
22 because to be honest with you there'll be a lot of debate
23 about this proposal before those Boards. So their support
24 would help.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micki.

27
28 MR. STICKMAN: I voted in favor of this
29 proposal because I believe that on the Staff analysis that
30 they failed to go out there and really talk to the people
31 that are affected in Anvik and Holy Cross and Grayling, so
32 I voted in favor of that proposal for that very reason.

33
34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki.

37
38 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

41
42 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I'm a
43 little concerned of why I should justify how I vote, this,
44 after all this is the Western Interior Federal Subsistence,
45 and I shouldn't have to justify whether I vote yea or nea.
46 We took action, action has been taken and it is -- you
47 know, I can justify - I can tell you why I voted yea for it
48 is because this is, it's name itself, suggests, Western
49 Interior Federal Subsistence Advisory, and I thought that's
50 what we're supposed to be dealing on is subsistence, and I

00033

1 don't feel that I should justify my vote or justify it to
2 anybody and explain why I voted this way and why I didn't
3 vote.

4
5 I mean that's my privilege, that's my
6 option and I'm exercising my vote of being in this Council.

7
8 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. Point well
11 taken. And at this time if you do want to testify or speak
12 up for a proposal, I think that is handled within your
13 discussion, so I think that more than enough takes care of
14 the reasoning behind the votes.

15
16 Again, I just wanted to see it in front of
17 the Federal Subsistence Board. I am positive under the
18 Board of Fisheries under the State side, it won't --
19 probably won't pass it but I do want to have these
20 subsistence issues before the Federal Subsistence Board.

21
22 Next proposal is.....

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, the next proposal
25 is.....

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Ida, it's hard to see
28 you back there, do you have another comment? Yeah, our
29 minutes will reflect that Gab Sam of Tanana Chiefs and
30 another person walked in, Mike Walleri of Tanana Chiefs
31 walked in.

32
33 (Gab Sam and Mike Walleri - present)

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida.

36
37 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
38 Committee Member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm a little
39 confused and I think perhaps at what Vince was asking you
40 about. I believe the motion was in favor of rejecting this
41 proposal.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: No.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: No.

46
47 MS. HILDEBRAND: The motion was to accept
48 this proposal?

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

00034

1 MS. HILDEBRAND: And then that, in fact,
2 rejects the Staff recommendation?

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

5
6 MS. HILDEBRAND: Okay, thank you for
7 clarifying that. And we will try to do that all throughout
8 our proposal discussions. Vince.

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, while Ken
11 Chase was testifying I got a call from the National Guard
12 and the General will be here today and he asked what time
13 he could speak and I said 11:00 o'clock. It's not 11:00
14 yet but the general will be here to talk about Project
15 Renew Hope, so there must have been changes in his travel
16 plans. I need to inform you of that.

17
18 And finally, in all respect to Mr. Morgan,
19 I need to explain why I asked that, for justification.
20 Basically, I'm trying to prepare a record of your actions
21 because the Board may choose not to follow any
22 recommendation of the Regional Council, which the Board
23 determines is not supported by substantial evidence,
24 violates recognized principles of wildlife conservation or
25 would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence.
26 That's why I asked. And as your coordinator and Don, as
27 filling in as the biologist, we have to carry forth your
28 recommendation through. So with that, I understand his
29 concerns but I wanted to explain the reason I suggested
30 that is to get on the record the three criteria that the
31 Board can reject.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. It's not
34 11:00 o'clock yet so I'd like to go on and get Proposal FP-
35 01-5 on the floor. So with that the Chair will entertain a
36 motion to adopt Proposal 5.

37
38 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Move to adopt.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Angela moved. Is there a
41 second?

42
43 MR. DEACON: Second.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Henry.
46 Discussion. Mr. Rivard.

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Proposal 5 was
49 submitted by Leonard Kobuk of St. Michael. It would add
50 the residents of the community of St. Michael to the

00035

1 existing customary and traditional use determination for
2 salmon and chum salmon. And with that Don will present the
3 Staff analysis.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: What page is this on?

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: Page 23.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, go ahead.

10
11 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
12 Rivard here. I think it's preliminary to provide this
13 analysis today. There's been discussion at the Seward
14 Peninsula RAC meeting last week about modifying this
15 proposal and possibly even withdrawing it. They had some
16 discussions yesterday and I talked with Pat McClenahan this
17 morning, or actually she left me a message that there's
18 some ongoing discussions going on so it's too preliminary,
19 I think, to even give this analysis today.

20
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the Staff
24 recommendation?

25
26 MR. RIVARD: Excuse me?

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: What was the Staff
29 recommendation?

30
31 MR. RIVARD: Well, the Staff
32 recommendation, as written, was to modify the existing
33 customary and traditional use to include the community of
34 St. Michael.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Vince.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, there were
39 comments submitted on this and they may indicate why
40 there's pending action. Bernadette Jo, President of St.
41 Michael Native Corporation, they sent a letter of support
42 for this proposal but they wanted it to be residents of St.
43 Michaels and Stebbins, the subsistence fish, and some
44 different drainages that do not drain into the Yukon River.

45
46 There was also a -- it was also signed by
47 quite a few individuals from St. Michaels.

48
49 The recent resolutions came in from the
50 Native Village of St. Michaels and from Stebbins Community

00036

1 Association. They support the proposal with the
2 modification to add Kotlik and to include, and I didn't
3 have time to find out all the pronunciations of this, but
4 maybe Donald can fill in because this is his home area and
5 hopefully he can read my writing. It's to include these
6 drainages.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead Don.

9
10 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chairman, thanks. To
11 include the Pikmiktalik, Nunvaqnuq, Nunaqa, Goo-yak and Big
12 and Little Canal.

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: So basically what they were
15 looking at is these are drainages that do not drain into
16 the Yukon River. So with that, there's been, and Don had
17 the latest information on that, there's been further
18 discussions with the author of the proposal to see if they
19 want to withdraw the proposal. We can point out different
20 maps, if need be, and Jeff Denton's up at the mic, he works
21 for BLM, he may have some insight on this.

22
23 I'm not trying to keep this proposal alive,
24 I'm just trying, as far as Staff analysis, of just trying
25 to give you the full information to-date. So with that,
26 maybe Jeff can shed some light on the area in question and
27 then see if you agree to hold off on taking action.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl Morgan.

30
31 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, did the Yukon-
32 Kuskokwim Regional Council taken any action on this or have
33 they?

34
35 MR. RIVARD: They have not met yet.
36 They're meeting the 24th through the 26th.

37
38 MR. MORGAN: Well, then Mr. Chairman, I make
39 a motion to table this proposal until the Yukon-Kuskokwim
40 Council takes action.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

43
44 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion to -- do
47 you want to use the word, table or defer?

48
49 MR. MORGAN: Well, yes, defer would be
50 better.

00037

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, there is a motion to
2 defer action on this proposal until the local Kuskokwim
3 communities or Kuskokwim Native Association meets. Who
4 seconded?

5
6 MR. REAKOFF: (Nods affirmatively)

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack Reakoff seconded. Any
9 further discussion. Jeff.

10
11 MR. DENTON: Yeah, I might shed a little
12 bit more light on it. The Seward Peninsula RAC met here
13 just recently to discuss this and the representatives from
14 St. Michael was there. And they have changed what they
15 were really looking for with this proposal. They actually
16 want a change in the boundaries of the fisheries region to
17 move south from St. Michael down to Point Romanoff and
18 include Canal River as in their area. They don't want the
19 rest of the Kuskokwim Yukon Delta, they want those
20 drainages that they've traditionally used basically forever
21 to have C&T on those and they don't want the rest of the
22 world in their neighborhood is basically what it amounts
23 to, where they want a priority for the areas that they have
24 traditionally that are right adjacent to their villages.

25
26 So they've modified this proposal
27 considerably last week in their RAC meeting up there. So
28 it would be best, probably, like you say, defer this until
29 you get the full picture of what those folks are really
30 wanting up there.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I, too, feel
33 comfortable in deferring action on this. It is out of our
34 region and as was discussed yesterday in the Middle Yukon
35 Advisory Committee, it's pretty hard to take any action
36 before the local communities acts on this. That way we can
37 support or reject outright. Right now, I feel that
38 deferment is appropriate.

39
40 So all those in favor of the motion to
41 defer action signify by saying aye.

42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

46
47 (No opposing votes)

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries. The next
50 proposal is what?

00038

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, maybe Angela's
2 bringing this up but you still have a motion on the floor
3 to support the proposal so maybe she's going to put forward
4 to ask her second to remove the motion to support.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Wasn't that automatically by
7 deferring? The record will show that we.....

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM:automatically deferred
12 action. I see the entrance of the National Guard, so maybe
13 at this time we should recognize Adjacent General Oates.

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I've never
16 met the General. But the General is here and I do need to
17 apologize for him, I did copy a biobackground on the
18 General and it's on the plane. So anyways, the Major
19 General Phillip Oates is here and I believe he has handouts
20 and we'll just have to make sure he feels welcome here.
21 And with that, I'll ask the General if he'd like to come up
22 to the microphone.

23
24 MAJOR GENERAL OATES: Well, thank you very
25 much. It's my first time in Nulato and I'm glad to be
26 here.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for coming here
29 and sharing with us and we'll request that you use the mic.

30
31 MAJOR GENERAL OATES: Yes, I will. Is this
32 on or.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, you push the button.

35
36 MAJOR GENERAL OATES: Well, thank you very
37 much. I guess Mr. Ron Sam is the Chair. Mr. Sam, I thank
38 you for the opportunity to come. I have a few remarks on
39 behalf of Governor Tony Knowles and if they're appropriate
40 at this time, and I don't mean to interrupt the meeting
41 otherwise, but I can tell you why we're here and perhaps
42 answer some questions as well.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, we try to accommodate
45 people who are in and out, so you're more than welcome to
46 go ahead and address this group. I see we have a lot of
47 residents, local and non-local, so I'd like you to address
48 us.

49
50 MAJOR GENERAL OATES: Well, thank you very

00039

1 much, Mr. Sam. I looked at the communities that are
2 represented here and I hope to visit many of these places,
3 although, I've been to Galena and Kotzebue and Nulato now
4 and many other places. You know, you hear the names but
5 it's not the same as visiting the places so I thank you
6 very much for the opportunity to be here.

7
8 And what I'd like to do is first of all
9 introduce the members of the National Guard and my staff
10 that I brought with me. In the back of the room, if you'll
11 just stand up, first of all we have Brigadier General Dave
12 Glines, who is the general officer in command of the 207th
13 Infantry Scout Group. Dave.

14
15 GENERAL GLINES: Sir.

16
17 MAJOR GENERAL OATES: And we also have
18 Colonel Bo Austin, who is my advisor on rural affairs and
19 is setting up a new program to address all the National
20 Guard important areas throughout Alaska, especially rural
21 Alaska. Bo.

22
23 COLONEL AUSTIN: Sir.

24
25 MAJOR GENERAL OATES: And we also have
26 Lieutenant Savak, who is working now in Operation Renew
27 Hope with the Youth Education Program which we've set up as
28 part of that and we're working with TCC to get that
29 established here in the TCC areas and also in Nulato.

30
31 LIEUTENANT AUSTIN: Sir.

32
33 MAJOR GENERAL OATES: And we've got Command
34 Sergeant Mason, who is a senior enlisted -- senior non-
35 commissioned officer in the Alaska Army National Guard.
36 He's the group command sergeant major and he was just
37 appointed to this position, I guess about three months ago.
38 Ed.

39
40 SERGEANT MASON: That's correct, sir.

41
42 MAJOR GENERAL OATES: And then finally we
43 have Ms. Kari Martino. And Kari works in my Division of
44 Emergency Services and is the public affairs officer with
45 Operation Renew Hope. And you can see her T-shirt there
46 signifies that position that she has.

47
48 So from all the National Guard I bring you
49 greetings.

50

00040

1 And what I'd like to do is talk real
2 briefly about Operation Renew Hope and I'll start by
3 describing my job. In my capacity I fill two primary
4 roles. One is the Commander of the National Guard as the
5 Adjunct General and the other is the Commissioner of the
6 Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. And in that
7 department we have the Division of Emergency Services and
8 in that capacity, I also Chair the Governor's Disaster
9 Policy Cabinet. And that is the cabinet that comes
10 together any time we have an emergency or disaster or
11 request from a community for a disaster and it comes
12 together with bringing the resources to help with that
13 problem or make a recommendation to the Governor to
14 possibly request a Federal declaration of a disaster, which
15 we have, here in Operation Renew Hope.

16
17 And as a result of the Governor's
18 declaration of a disaster in the YKN area, the Yukon,
19 Kuskokwim and Norton Sound areas, we have stood up an
20 organization under the disaster policy cabinet and the lady
21 that runs that is the Deputy Commissioner of the Department
22 of Community and Economic Development and my very good
23 friend, Bernice Joseph. And those of you from Nulato know
24 that we certainly have a terrific individual heading up
25 this task force. And then that task force exists to
26 coordinate the resources, individual assistance to make
27 sure people have the ability to have the resources, the
28 food and the fuel to through the winter, but also in long-
29 term assistance, whether that's through SBA loans or
30 efforts and research to help understand and come up with
31 solutions to our fish failures. Jobs, economic
32 development, both near-term and long-term. The Governor
33 sees Operation Renew Hope as a long-term effort that
34 addresses, not only this immediate fish failure, if you
35 will, but also the long-term aspects of needs and economic
36 development in rural Alaska.

37
38 And what I might do is give you just a
39 quick summary of where we are and also talk to you about
40 the declaration itself. As head of the disaster policy
41 cabinet we've had many other requests for disaster
42 declarations. And those requests, many of which we have
43 provided assistance but we have not made a formal
44 declaration of a disaster. And the reason for that is that
45 those areas did not meet the magnitude or the problem that
46 we have here in the Yukon and the Kuskokwim and the Norton
47 Sound areas where there is a combined commercial failure,
48 subsistence failure and in many cases escapement failure,
49 and without a robust opportunity for other economic efforts
50 or other jobs. And so when you combine those four things

00041

1 together, is the reason is that the Governor made a
2 declaration here in the YKN area. And as a result of that
3 declaration we've stood up the task force I talked about.

4
5 We had USDA food and nutrition release
6 300,000 for food commodities. The Department of the
7 Interior made one million dollars available to Native
8 tribes with an addition four to five million dollars to
9 come at a later date. The President of the United States
10 directed 6.75 million dollars in low income home energy
11 assistance programs. There was a Magnuson-Stevens Fishery
12 Conservation Management Act declaration that was made that
13 will release, we hope, about 15 million dollars on October
14 1 that will go both, in long-term recovery and economic
15 diversification. We've also got the Western Alaska
16 Fisheries Disasters money which is continuing and a raise
17 on the limit once a justification of need is made up to
18 \$5,000 per individual, and that process is ongoing through
19 an office out of Emergency Services that works for
20 Operation Renew Hope.

21
22 And then we've got other efforts through
23 the Youth Jobs Program, that we're working through the
24 school districts and the Native non-profit organizations,
25 housing assistance operations that are going. Jobs such as
26 brush-cutting and other jobs through the Department of
27 Transportation. And then the long-term effort in research
28 areas.

29
30 We've also delivered subsistence fish to
31 Nome and we're in the process now, through Operation Renew
32 Hope, of buying additional subsistence fish and in fact
33 distributing that fish through the efforts of TCC here in
34 the Interior and those deliveries will take place in the
35 near future.

36
37 So just as a broad description, Mr. Sam,
38 that's what Operation Renew Hope is doing.

39
40 I'd be happy to take back any concerns or
41 issues to the Governor. It's a long-term program that --
42 it's not just two or three months here, I see this is as a
43 long-term effort where Bernice's office will be stood up.

44
45 Another thing that we're doing later this
46 week is we're meeting in Juneau, Bernice Joseph and myself
47 with the other departments to see how we can organize to
48 provide this assistance to communities all across Alaska, a
49 declaration for disaster. So we all hope that the fishing
50 is better next year but we need to make efforts to be able

00042

1 to cope with it when it is not good.

2

3 So I'd be happy to answer any questions,
4 Mr. Sam, if anyone has them. If not, I'd be happy, if you
5 don't mind, just to sit in the back of the room and listen
6 to the meeting.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, number 1 you're more
9 than welcome to sit in and listen if you want. And if we
10 have any concerns or questions for the General from the
11 Council, now, is the time to address them. You're not in
12 uniform so we can't.....

13

14 MAJOR GENERAL OATES: Yeah, I won't make
15 you stand at attention while you ask me the question.

16

17 MR. GOODWIN: Mr. Chairman.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Willie.

20

21 MR. GOODWIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 General, I'm from Kotzebue. I know they got some salmon
23 from up there through Unalakleet, but I'm wondering we have
24 another fishery that's in good shape and it's the sheefish
25 that we get from under the ice, are you guys going to be
26 willing to buy some to send out?

27

28 MAJOR GENERAL OATES: I'm having trouble
29 hearing you with the.....

30

31 REPORTER: General, you need to turn your
32 mic off while he's talking. Okay, go ahead, Willie.

33

34 MAJOR GENERAL OATES: Okay.

35

36 MR. GOODWIN: Okay. Like I said we have --
37 the State of Alaska is getting fish from Kotzebue to bring
38 to Nome through Unalakleet, we have another fishery up
39 there that's going to probably take place within a couple
40 of weeks or three weeks from now, and that's sheefish.
41 That's some good quality sheefish up there right out of
42 Kotzebue, and I'm wondering if your department or the State
43 is going to be willing to buy some of those to bring out to
44 some other areas.

45

46 MAJOR GENERAL OATES: Let me check on that.
47 I think the fish buy for the most recent subsistence buy, I
48 think that's about 57,000 pounds to TCC and about 57,000 to
49 AVCP. I think that buy is already identified where that
50 will go to. But I will take that information back that

00043

1 there is another fishery coming up in Kotzebue and I know
2 the first fish buy that happened out of a fisheries there
3 was excellent, and, in fact, I helped deliver that to Nome,
4 so I'll take that information back.

5
6 MR. GOODWIN: It is a limited commercial
7 fishery. We're only limited to get 25,000 pounds for the
8 whole area but there's an opportunity for some of the guys
9 to make some money here.

10
11 MAJOR GENERAL OATES: And what kind of fish
12 did you say it was?f

13
14 MR. GOODWIN: It's sheefish.

15
16 MAJOR GENERAL OATES: Okay, thank you.

17
18 MR. GOODWIN: It's not like the pink salmon
19 you get from wherever to send out that's not in good shape.

20
21 MAJOR GENERAL OATES: Okay, thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micki.

24
25 MR. STICKMAN: The concerns that I have and
26 I already talked to the Governor about it was the income
27 guidelines for the disaster assistance. You know, as you
28 know probably, most of the people who qualified for this
29 assistance are people who are already on welfare. You have
30 to practically be on welfare to see if you can qualify for
31 this assistance. And most of it is kind of targeted
32 towards people who commercially fish and there is nothing
33 being said or being done for the people who are the
34 subsistence fishermen. But the majority of the money that
35 comes from the disaster money goes to people who actually
36 don't even fish. So the people who are actually out there
37 fishing and struggling to get by are not really getting
38 anything from disaster relief.

39
40 MAJOR GENERAL OATES: So now are you
41 speaking more about the commercial fishermen than the
42 subsistence fishermen, but you're saying that the
43 commercial fishermen who are out there are not getting the
44 level of assistance as other people in need?

45
46 MR. STICKMAN: Well, I mean all the people.
47 I mean if you go to all the villages, the majority of the
48 disaster monies go to people who live on welfare and the
49 people who live on welfare don't even fish at all.

50

00044

1 MAJOR GENERAL OATES: Okay.

2

3 MR. STICKMAN: So the money isn't even
4 really going to the people that should be getting it. You
5 know, even though the money is great for the local economy
6 but it's still going to the wrong people. It's going to
7 people who don't even fish at all.

8

9 MAJOR GENERAL OATES: With the Federal
10 money that we get, as always, we have flexibility with our
11 State money than the Federal money but I'll take that back.
12 But there are also other areas of assistance other than
13 just the individual assistance grants that come out, and
14 some of those are through the Small Business
15 Administration. Now, those are loans, not assistance.
16 Some of the other areas like bringing jobs, such as the
17 brush clearing jobs and some of the road sealing jobs and
18 things that the Department of Transportation, hopefully
19 that will help. Some of the Youth Corps jobs are not, you
20 know, are open to youth from all perspectives. And rural
21 energy assistance programs, I think, are available as is
22 some of the BIA money.

23

24 But I hear your message and I'll take that
25 back, and I'll take a look at it and try to take a look at
26 who is getting the individual assistance money and what are
27 the parameters for doing that. But I appreciate your
28 comment.

29

30 MR. STICKMAN: Thank you.

31

32 MAJOR GENERAL OATES: Yes, sir.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Angela.

35

36 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
37 question is, on the youth job programs, what kind of jobs
38 are these doing, are they learning about how to survive
39 when there'll be no more subsistence fish in the river or
40 are they -- what kind of -- are they preparing themselves
41 to go to college and take up these studies? What kind of
42 jobs are they?

43

44 MAJOR GENERAL OATES: The jobs program is
45 through the Department of Labor. But basically we've
46 allowed each region to define how they want to develop
47 their programs and what they want to achieve. Some of them
48 are areas such as community and habitat cleanup. Some of
49 them on leadership and skill development. But again, the
50 school districts and the local Native non-profits that are

00045

1 actually defining the direction that those programs are
2 going.

3
4 I've got Lieutenant Savak with me, that I
5 introduced earlier, and he is actually putting this program
6 together so I'll suggest that he comes up and talks to you
7 and gets your ideas as we work with TCC to establish the
8 youth jobs program here in the Interior.

9
10 The other thing that the Governor had
11 mentioned is that he hopes that this is just the start of
12 this program and, in fact, it will continue for years and
13 years to come. But again, we want to do what you want to
14 do in terms of education, leader development and bringing
15 some jobs into our youth so we'd welcome your comments.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions. If
18 not, I've got one, there was some people that applied for
19 this last year, quite a few of them were rejected but do
20 they have to reapply for assistance?

21
22 MAJOR GENERAL OATES: The individual
23 assistance, if they received individual assistance
24 previously from the WAFD money, the Western Alaska
25 Fisheries Disaster money, we have sent letters back out to
26 them to talk about their eligibility for possible more
27 assistance. But as a general statement, this money, if you
28 were turned down on the WAFD application for that
29 individual assistance, you would probably not be eligible
30 at this point unless your circumstances changed. With one
31 difference, though, 1 October we had a new Federal fiscal
32 year and then that will be a new program and we've asked
33 for different rules as far as how that assistance money
34 will be given. We don't know the exact amount of those
35 dollars that will be available but there will be some type
36 of application process. And what we have done we have
37 published an 800 number that people can call to ask these
38 questions and I've got that with me and I can read that
39 off.

40
41 And we've also got, in each regional area,
42 and for the area here, a regional office in Fairbanks that
43 we've stood up and we're working with the Native non-
44 profits and also the community resource partnership groups
45 to make sure we get out and determine how best to provide
46 this assistance.

47
48 But the number for individuals to call for
49 individual assistance update, that telephone number is 888-
50 388-3473. And I will say that number again, 888-388-3473.

00046

1 And that's the best way to call and ask about an individual
2 case because it would probably be many factors involved.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Do we have
5 anymore questions. Vince.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted
8 to thank the General for coming out but also that the
9 National Guard provided their facility for Staff to stay
10 in. This is a large turnout by Staff at this meeting and
11 it wouldn't have happened without the Tribal Council
12 working with the National Guard to get the facility
13 available. So I personally appreciate it and I know the
14 Tribal Council appreciates it also.

15

16 MAJOR GENERAL OATES: Well, thank you very
17 much. Are you Mr. Mathews?

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, sir.

20

21 MAJOR GENERAL OATES: Yeah, well, thanks
22 Mr. Mathews. We're part of the community and we're happy
23 to provide the assistance that we can.

24

25 I'm going to spend the day, I'm going to go
26 down to the school and talk to some of the children.
27 Bernice told me that I've got to meet Eddie Hildebrand, her
28 grandpa and Edith Nichols, her mother. So I'm looking
29 forward to meeting those folks today and enjoying a nice
30 day here in Nulato. So Mr. Sam, I thank you very much for
31 letting me take a short part of this meeting.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, sir. And again,
34 I just appreciate your interacting and intermingling with
35 community members. Intermingling and meeting and listening
36 to locals is always really appreciated. I just want to
37 extend that to you and thank you for stopping by.

38

39 MAJOR GENERAL OATES: Yes, sir, thank you
40 very much.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, there's coffee for
43 your staff, too, if they want some.

44

45 MAJOR GENERAL OATES: Thank you. I'll go
46 get a cup right now myself.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Getting back to
49 our meeting, the next proposal is FP-01, what page is that
50 on?

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that's on Page
2 36. And again, I need to explain many of these proposals
3 are not in your district. The reason I requested they be
4 put in there is because of my understanding that the salmon
5 stocks for the Yukon River are fully allocated so I
6 requested that all proposals that affect the Yukon River be
7 before you, even though most likely they're not directly in
8 your area. That was one reason. The other reason I
9 requested it be in there is because of the fact that we are
10 trying, with the three Councils, under your direction and
11 under the direction of Eastern Interior and YK to work a
12 coordinated effort. So in a way I'm kind of apologizing
13 for some of these proposals to be in front of you but I
14 felt that to keep the communication and cooperation across
15 the drainage that that's why they're before you.

16
17 So with that is Proposal No. 6. That is
18 from the Yukon River Fisheries Drainage Association. It
19 would repeal the regulation, it would restricts the
20 subsistence fishermen registered for a particular district,
21 commercially, to be only allowed to subsistence fish in
22 that same district.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. The Chair
27 will entertain a motion to support Proposal 01-6.

28
29 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: So moved.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

32
33 MR. HENRY: Second.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's been moved by Angela,
36 seconded by Sam Henry that we support Proposal 01-6. My
37 take on this proposal, while it promotes -- well, I know
38 that they're out of our jurisdiction or out of our regional
39 land mass, but I, too, appreciate all the fisheries
40 proposals before us. Many of you know that when we started
41 getting involved with fisheries, we also had training down
42 at Anchorage. We had a joint meeting with the Yukon
43 Kuskokwim and the Eastern Interior Regional Councils which
44 encompasses the totality of the Yukon River, and anything
45 that deals with the Yukon River fisheries is of total
46 interest to us.

47
48 There is a motion on the floor. Don.

49
50 MR. RIVARD: Don Rivard from the Office of

00048

1 Subsistence Management. On Page 38 of the RAC booklet here
2 it shows Proposal 6 submitted by the Yukon River Drainage
3 Fishermen's Association, YRDFA, would change the Federal
4 regulations under fishing periods for the Yukon Norton
5 area.

6
7 The proposal change would repeal the
8 following provision. If you are a commercial salmon
9 fisherman who is registered for districts Y1, Y2 or Y3, you
10 may not take salmon for subsistence purposes in any other
11 district located downstream from Old Paradise Village. So
12 the existing regulation is there in the booklet as well and
13 the proposed regulation shows that being stricken.

14
15 The preliminary conclusion and Staff
16 analysis is to support this proposal. The justification is
17 that the existing regulation, which was intended to prevent
18 the illegal sale of salmon harvested in the subsistence
19 fishery is overly restricted to Lower Yukon River
20 subsistence users. Management of the Lower Yukon
21 commercial fishery has undergone many changes in recent
22 years in response to enforcement actions, decreased
23 returns, increased commercial catch efficiency and market
24 trends. These changes have significantly reduced
25 commercial fishing time and required subsistence fishermen
26 to remove their fishing gear prior to, during and after
27 announced commercial openings. Increased competition and
28 market demands have required commercial fishermen living in
29 villages in Districts Y2 and Y3 to travel down stream long
30 distances to participate in commercial fishing openings in
31 District Y1. These openings are very short and are
32 announced on short notice. Once fishermen have sold fish
33 in the district that they are registered and also must
34 subsistence fish in that district.

35
36 The existing regulation prevents some of
37 the fishermen from subsistence fishing near their home
38 villages and establish fish camps.

39
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, there was no
45 public comments and Alaska Department of Fish and Game may
46 have a new comment.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: ADF&G.

49
50 MR. BURR: Mr. Chairman, again, this

00049

1 additional comment is written following review of analysis
2 of the recommendations of the Federal Staff.

3

4 Proposal 2001-6, this proposal is a request
5 to repeal an existing regulation that specifies that if you
6 are a commercial salmon fishermen who has registered for
7 Yukon River Districts 1, 2 or 3, you may not take salmon
8 for subsistence purposes in any other district located down
9 stream of Old Paradise Village. The State support State
10 supports the preliminary Staff conclusions to repeal this
11 regulation and has specified its intent to propose the same
12 to the Alaska Board of Fishery.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: John, we're having, believe
15 it or not, technical difficulties right at this moment so I
16 need to confirm that the Court Recorder's system is working
17 so we may have to have you repeat, sorry.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you got it?

20

21 REPORTER: My equipment is fine. It's
22 something else.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, okay, somebody's beeping
25 here so whatever.

26

27 REPORTER: Who's recorder, the tape is
28 finished and beeping.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Sorry for the interruption, I
31 thought she wasn't recording.

32

33 MR. BURR: Shall I try again, did it work
34 okay?

35

36 REPORTER: I've got it. It's his mini-
37 recorder, the tape is done.

38

39 MR. BURR: You're fine?

40

41 REPORTER: I'm fine.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: She's fine.

44

45 MR. BURR: My only other comment was that
46 that companion State proposal is No. 162 in the State book.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments. Do
49 you know if YK moved on this?

50

00050

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the Yukon
2 Kuskokwim won't be meeting until October 24th through the
3 26th in Kotlik. And I have no information from the Lower
4 Yukon Fish and Game Advisory Committee if they've met.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you know anything about
7 this Carl?

8
9 MR. MORGAN: I think since it does involve
10 part of the Western Interior, it does go Y3 and crosses the
11 border, I think it's not appropriate to -- I think it's
12 appropriate when we do take action on it because it does
13 cross Western Interior.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for that
16 clarification, Carl. I did have the opportunity to attend
17 a meeting down in Emmonak and all indications there seem to
18 go along with this proposal. They really do want to
19 support subsistence. And we do have a motion on the floor
20 to support this proposal, any further discussion.

21
22 Micki.

23
24 MR. STICKMAN: This proposal to me doesn't
25 seem like it would make any sense because for the Lower
26 Yukon they get all their subsistence fish in one day and
27 then after that they have commercial openings. So the way
28 it reads to me it doesn't make any sense because all their
29 fish is caught in one day and then after that the only
30 thing left for them to do is fish commercially.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki. Angela.

33
34 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes, Mr. Chair. I live
35 in District Y3 and our men do go down river and do
36 commercial fishing. And this -- by changing this, it will
37 help our people who cannot, according to the rules now,
38 cannot subsistence fish in Y3 even though they live there,
39 they'd have to commercial fish in Y1 because that's where
40 they're doing the commercial. And by clearing this up,
41 it's just a change in the -- our guys can come home and go
42 to fish camp and get their subsistence catch, that's all
43 this proposal means to me.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Angela. Any
46 further discussion. Comments.

47
48 MR. STICKMAN: Ida.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida. Bring a mic over

00051

1 there.

2

3 MS. HILDEBRAND: I'll sit a little closer.
4 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee Member. Thank you, Mr.
5 Chairman. It's just a point of clarification, I realize
6 you haven't had sufficient time to review the materials.
7 The discussion in the text it talks about why these people
8 are seeking to have this restriction removed. Some people
9 live, as Angela just stated, in Y3 and their fish camps and
10 their subsistence racks and all that sort of thing is in Y3
11 and they may have gone to Y1 to commercial fish but they
12 cannot return under current regulations to Y3 to where
13 their fish camps are to subsistence fish. It's just a
14 point of clarification.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ida. Any further
17 comments.

18

19 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

22

23 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I feel that
24 this outdated regulation is an unnecessary burden to
25 subsistence users and it's the objective of this Council to
26 make it easy for subsistence users to participate in
27 subsistence.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that a call for the
30 question?

31

32 MR. REAKOFF: Question.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called for.
35 All those in favor of supporting Proposal 06 signify by
36 saying aye.

37

38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

41

42 (No opposing votes)

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings us
47 up to Proposal 8. Proposal 7 was withdrawn for those that
48 are keeping a score card. Proposal 8 is on Page 50.

49

50 And again, it's another proposal, this

00052

1 deals way up in the Eastern Interior. It's to rescind the
2 regulatory requirement that individuals obtain an Alaska
3 Department of Fish and Game fishing permit for non-salmon
4 species but retain the requirement to obtain a permit for
5 subsistence salmon fishing in the Upper Tanana above the
6 mouth of the Wood River. That was proposed by the Yukon
7 River Fisheries Drainage Association.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Chair will entertain a
10 motion to support Proposal 01-8.

11
12 MR. REAKOFF: I make a motion to support
13 Proposal FP01-08.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

16
17 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Second.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Angela. Again,
20 Mr. Rivard.

21
22 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
23 Rivard, Office of Subsistence Management. On Page 52 of
24 the booklet, Proposal 8 is submitted by YRDFA would rescind
25 the regulatory requirement that individuals obtain an
26 Alaska Department of Fish and Game subsistence fishing
27 permit for non-salmon species but retain the requirement to
28 obtain a permit for subsistence salmon fishing in the Upper
29 Tanana River above the mouth of the Wood River.

30
31 You can see there the existing regulation.
32 The proposed regulation would just add the words, for
33 salmon in the Tanana River drainage above the mouth of the
34 Wood River. The preliminary conclusion is to support the
35 proposal and the justification is under current State and
36 Federal subsistence fishing regulations, subsistence
37 fishing permits for taking any fish are required in the
38 Tanana River drainage upstream of the mouth of the Wood
39 River. This proposal regulatory change would amend
40 existing regulations by deleting the permit requirement for
41 non-salmon species but retain a permit requirement for
42 salmon.

43
44 According to the ADF&G managers responsible
45 for the Tanana River fisheries compliance with the non-
46 salmon permit requirement and reporting of non-salmon
47 harvest has been poor in this area. The use of post-season
48 subsistence surveys in Upper Tanana River villages may
49 provide a more reliable source of subsistence harvest
50 information.

00053

1 Federal jurisdiction is limited to the
2 Federal public waters within the boundaries of the Tetlin
3 National Wildlife Refuge, the only Federal conservation
4 unit in this portion of the Tanana River drainage. The
5 Refuge boundary is located 300 more river miles upstream
6 from the lower boundary of subdistrict 6(C). Little, if
7 any, subsistence fishing is thought to occur in waters
8 under Federal jurisdiction.

9
10 And it should be noted that a similar
11 proposal has been submitted to the Alaska Board of
12 Fisheries for their consideration during their 2000/2001
13 regulatory cycle.

14
15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Vince.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, there were no
20 public comments. And Alaska Department of Fish and Game
21 will share their position.

22
23 MR. BURR: On Proposal 2001-8, our current
24 comment was that this proposal asks to rescind regulation
25 requiring State permit for non-salmon species in the Tanana
26 River drainage above the Wood River mouth. The State's
27 neutral with respect to the proposal. We would also like
28 to note that much of the area above the Wood River is not
29 under Federal jurisdiction.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further
34 comments or questions. If I understand this proposal, it's
35 just more cleaning house and providing more subsistence
36 opportunities without the paperwork hassle, right?

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: I would defer to Don on that
39 but my understanding that is what's mainly considered
40 housecleaning. But I'm a little hesitant there because of
41 the Sate's comment on jurisdiction.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Rivard.

44
45 MR. RIVARD: Yes. I think that's the
46 intent of the proposal is to get some of the permit
47 requirements, but again, it's still a requirement for
48 salmon -- a permit for salmon but there's not that much
49 salmon that run up that far.

50

00054

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. We do have
2 a motion on the floor to support. Any further comments.

3
4 MR. MORGAN: Question.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called for
7 All in favor of supporting Proposal 06 signify by saying
8 aye.

9
10 MR. RIVARD: Excuse me, Mr. Chair it's 08.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Sorry, Proposal 08, sorry
13 about that. This is on the permit for salmon only,
14 rescinding all permits for whitefish. So where are we now,
15 did we.....

16
17 REPORTER: The question has been called on
18 08 but you haven't voted yet.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, the question has been
21 called for but I called 06 and it's for Proposal 08. All
22 in favor of supporting this proposal signify by saying aye.

23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

27
28 (No opposing votes)

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's a little better.
31 Support Proposal 08. Proposal 09.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Proposal 9 is
34 on Page 63. This was submitted by Council of Athabasca of
35 Tribal Governments of Fort Yukon. Again, this is out of
36 your region but within the Yukon Northern Region. They
37 would like to delete the requirement for a permit for
38 whitefish and suckers for Birch Creek and within 500 feet of
39 its mouth and refine the permit requirement to be upstream
40 of the Birch Creek bridge on the Steese Highway for
41 whitefish and suckers.

42
43 The Chair will entertain a motion to
44 support Proposal 09.

45
46 MR. STICKMAN: I make a motion to support
47 Proposal 09.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

50

00055

1 MR. HENRY: Second.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Sam Henry.
4 Discussion. Vince or Mr. Rivard.

5

6 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
7 Rivard, Office of Subsistence Management. On Page 65 of
8 your booklet, the issue is that Proposal 09 submitted by
9 the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments would modify a
10 regulatory requirement that individuals obtain an Alaska
11 Department of Fish and Game subsistence fishing permit in
12 Birch Creek, a tributary to the Upper Yukon River.

13

14 As written, this proposal would repeal the
15 existing Birch Creek permit for whitefish and suckers,
16 subsistence fishing near the creek's mouth and establish a
17 permit for subsistence fishing for whitefish and suckers in
18 the creek upstream of the Steese Highway bridge.

19

20 As you can see in front of you there's the
21 language of the existing regulation and the proposed
22 regulation language is below that, which adds upstream from
23 the bridge on the Steese Highway and deletes within 500
24 feet of its mouth.

25

26 On Page 67 is a map of the area, Birch
27 Creek from the Steese Highway upstream is designated as a
28 wild river and also runs through the Steese National
29 Conservation area so that is the part of it that's -- for
30 this proposal that's under Federal jurisdiction.

31

32 The preliminary Staff conclusion is to
33 support this proposal. The justification being that local
34 subsistence users who reside in rural communities near the
35 Birch Creek, including the village of Birch Creek, have
36 traditionally fished for non-salmon species in Birch Creek.
37 Subsistence fishing for salmon occurs in the mainstem Yukon
38 River in that area.

39

40 The original concern by the Alaska
41 Department of Fish and Game about salmon spawning in Birch
42 Creek does not appear relevant given available information.
43 Therefore, allowing subsistence fishing to occur downstream
44 of the Steese Highway bridge is justified. Subsistence
45 harvest monitoring could be addressed through use of
46 voluntary post-season surveys. Concerns about additional
47 effort and possibly under-reported harvest from non-local
48 fishermen gaining access to Birch Creek at the Steese
49 Highway bridge could be addressed by requiring a State or a
50 Federal subsistence permit. This permit requirement would

00056

1 ensure the collection of harvest data from fishers from
2 more distant locations who subsistence fish in Birch Creek
3 due to the easy access point at the bridge.

4
5 Jurisdictional aspects of this proposal
6 will need to be coordinated between the Federal Subsistence
7 Board and the Alaska Board of Fisheries, which will
8 consider a related proposal, No. 164, during their
9 deliberations in January which was also submitted by CATG.

10
11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, there were
16 no public comments and I think John Burr will share the
17 Fish and Game's comments.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

20
21 MR. BURR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This
22 proposal requests a change in the permitting requirements
23 for whitefish and suckers in Birch Creek in the Yukon River
24 drainage. Our original position on Page 63 of your booklet
25 has not changed and the State continues to support this
26 proposal.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida.

29
30 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
31 Committee Member. Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's just a point
32 of editing. On Page 68, under biological background, on
33 the second line it states professional biologists, I
34 request that it be stricken. Are we speaking professional
35 as opposed to unprofessional biologists.

36
37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ida. Now, where
40 was it now?

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida, for clarification, did
45 you want to just strike it off this book or bury it or.....

46
47 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
48 did it, both, facetiously and, yes, in editing I recommend
49 that the work professional be stricken.

50

00057

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Let's see, do we need an
2 amendment to this or anything to fix this proposal?

3
4 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman, I don't
5 believe so, I think the record -- the statement on the
6 record is sufficient.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are we on the record?

9
10 REPORTER: Yes.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ida. There is a
13 motion on the floor to support Proposal 09. Further
14 discussion.

15
16 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called for.
19 Again, we're just supporting and making it easier for
20 subsistence users in a few small areas. Question's been
21 called for. All those in favor of supporting Proposal 09
22 signify by saying aye.

23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

27
28 (No opposing votes)

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries. Proposal
31 10.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, Proposal
34 10 is.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just a minute Vince.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Sorry.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Chair will entertain a
41 motion to support Proposal 10 to get it on the floor.

42
43 MR. REAKOFF: I make a motion to adopt
44 Proposal 10.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

47
48 MR. STICKMAN: Second.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved by Jack, seconded by

00058

1 Micki to support Proposal 10. Mr. Rivard.

2

3 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4 Proposal 10 submitted by Council of Athabascan Tribal
5 Governments would rescind the regulatory requirement that
6 individuals obtain an Alaska Department of Fish and Game
7 subsistence fishing permit for the Yukon River from the
8 mouth of Twentytwo Mile Slough upstream to the US/Canada
9 border. On Page 75 of the booklet it shows the existing
10 regulation and the proposed language for regulation, which
11 would strike out Item B there.

12

13 The potential effects of this proposal
14 implementation would affect salmon and non-salmon
15 subsistence harvest reporting in the Upper Yukon River and
16 US and Canadian fisheries managers would not have the
17 benefit of complete catch and effort data essential to
18 managing the Yukon River fishery.

19 On Page 81, the preliminary conclusion is
20 to not support this proposal. The justification being that
21 this proposal would rescind the regulatory requirement that
22 individuals secure a subsistence fishing permit in the
23 Yukon River from the mouth of Twentytwo Mile Slough
24 upstream to the US/Canada border. In the fishery area
25 accessible by -- the Board of Fisheries established a
26 subsistence fishing permit and catch reporting requirements
27 to enable fisheries managers to identify non-local
28 subsistence fishermen and to collect catch and effort data.
29 Without such a requirement managers would not have the
30 benefit of complete catch and effort data essential to
31 managing the Yukon River fishery. Feel that it's extremely
32 important to continue to collect this harvest data for
33 management purposes in the Upper Yukon River, especially in
34 light of the Year 2000 runs for chinook and chum salmon
35 being assessed as the poorest on record which prompted a
36 complete closure in August of all non-subsistence and
37 subsistence salmon fisheries in Alaska. In Canada the
38 Department of Fisheries and Oceans fisheries managers
39 closed commercial, recreational and domestic food fisheries
40 and voluntary restrictions were requested of the aboriginal
41 fisheries.

42

43 The US and Canada have been cooperating in
44 the rebuilding of salmon stocks for the mainstem Yukon
45 River for several years while the official interim
46 agreement between the US and Canada lapsed in March 1998.
47 Both countries have continued conservation measures from
48 the former agreement in the best interest of the salmon
49 stocks.

50

00059

1 I think it's especially to point out that
2 up to 25 to 30 percent of all fall chum salmon harvested in
3 Alaska subsistence and commercial fisheries are thought to
4 spawn in Canada, however, the percentage of Canadian origin
5 fall chum salmon harvested in the permit area likely
6 exceeds 90 percent. In addition, approximately 50 percent
7 of all chinook salmon harvested in Alaskan commercial
8 fisheries spawn in Canada. No estimate is available for
9 Alaskan subsistence fisheries. However, all of the chinook
10 salmon harvested in the permit area above Twentytwo Mile
11 Slough are thought to have spawned in Canadian waters.

12
13 It should be noted that if Proposal 10 were
14 implemented by the Federal Subsistence Board, close
15 coordination between Federal and State fisheries managers
16 would be needed to implement it to minimize confusion and
17 conflicts. The proponent did not submit a companion
18 proposal to the Alaska Board of Fisheries to address
19 changes in State regulations. That would be needed in
20 order to fully implement the requested change.

21
22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, there were
27 two comments submitted. One from United Fishermen of
28 Alaska. They submitted a lengthy letter in table format.
29 And under this proposal their comment was, accurate
30 recording of subsistence harvest is needed for fully
31 documented usage and impact on the resource. Your book
32 also lists a letter from Don Woodruff. I believe that's in
33 error, that his comment is basically for Proposal 11 but it
34 is possible that his comment is reflective of his dislike
35 for people searching his gear and his take. So that might
36 be why it is there.

37
38 That's all the comments I know of.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: ADF&G.

41
42 MR. BURR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On
43 Proposal 2001-10. The proposal requests a change in
44 permitting requirements to the Yukon River drainage. It
45 would delete the requirements for a permit upstream of the
46 mouth of Twentytwo Mile Slough to the US/Canadian border.
47 The Department does not support this proposal. We do not
48 believe the permits impose harvest restrictions and that
49 they are the most practical, proficient and effective
50 method to obtain harvest information from this road

00060

1 accessible area.

2

3 Thanks.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further
6 questions, comments. Ida.

7

8 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Ida
9 Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee Member. Again, because this
10 proposal is out of your region, there seems to be some
11 problem in the analysis of not having contacted the
12 proponent to state clearly or to clarify what the intent
13 was. If the intent was just to strike the permit for
14 subsistence users in those villages that are affected under
15 Section B, state that there were other measures of how to
16 get the information and their harvest other than permits if
17 it's just in the villages that are affected by that area.

18

19 If the concern is of the users in Fairbanks
20 and other people coming down the highway, then the permits
21 for those people would be retained, but Section B is
22 specifically designed or I think is attempting to address
23 the subsistence users in that area.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ida. Any
28 questions. Further comments. So if we do support this
29 proposal we'll be totally against -- totally i reversal of
30 the Staff recommendation, right?

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman it would
33 be. And just so you know, Eastern Interior is meeting next
34 week and so they'll be taking up the same proposal because
35 it's in their region and from one of their members.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: That always proposes a
38 problem. What's the wishes of the Council, do you want to
39 act on this or is discussion enough?

40

41 MR. REAKOFF: I'd like to defer any action
42 on this proposal. I make a motion to defer.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

45

46 MR. MORGAN: Second.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's been moved by Jack,
49 seconded by Carl Morgan that we defer action on Proposal
50 10. Any further questions. If not, all those in favor of

00061

1 deferring the action on Proposal 10 signify by saying aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: (Nods affirmatively)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

6

7 (No opposing votes)

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries. Is that
10 enough for your transcribing?

11

12 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Everyone nodded.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, two things.
17 One in the future, the next cycle on fisheries, hopefully
18 we'll be able to utilize the coordinating fisheries
19 committee to sort through these proposals to see which ones
20 warrant truly being before the Council.

21

22 The other item is is lunch is here. The
23 Tribal Council assisted with lunch materials that were
24 brought in and it's all put together at the table back
25 there so I don't know what the wishes are of the Council
26 but hopefully we'll be able to put out a collection can and
27 defer some of the cost associated with all the meals that
28 the Tribal Council is putting forward.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince, for
31 bringing that to our attention. We do have one more
32 proposal and I'd like to slam it through if possible.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Proposal 11, the Chair will
37 entertain a motion to support Proposal 11.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Proposal
40 11 is on Page 86. It was submitted by the Yukon River
41 Fisheries Drainage Association. It would adopt a new
42 regulation restricting targeting of chinook or king salmon
43 specifically for the use of dog food.

44

45 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I make a
46 motion that we adopt Proposal FP01-11.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

49

50 MR. HENRY: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved my Micki, seconded by
2 Sam Henry to support Proposal 11. Mr. George Sherrod.

3
4 MR. SHERROD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 Proposal 11 requests that the targeting of chinook salmon
6 be prohibited for use of dog food. There were a couple of
7 exceptions to the request, and if you look on the bottom of
8 Page 90, it would allow the use of chinook salmon that were
9 unfit for human consumption, fish scraps, fish under 16
10 inches to be fed to dogs and that chinook taken,
11 incidentally after July 10th in the Koyukuk River drainage
12 and after July 20th of District 6 of the Tanana River
13 drainage also be allowed to be used for dog food.

14
15 The State of Alaska currently has a
16 regulation that is, in fact, a policy, and then at the top
17 of Page 91, it reads, in the Yukon River drainage it is the
18 policy of the Board of Fisheries that king salmon are to be
19 used primarily for human consumption and not specifically
20 targeted for dog food, except that whole fish that are
21 unfit for human consumption, scraps and small fish may be
22 fed to dogs.

23
24 I should make a note that the Yukon River
25 Fisheries Association, the author of this proposal has
26 submitted a similar proposal, No. 156, to the State Board
27 of Fisheries which will come up later in this coming spring
28 or early 2001. Under Federal regulations, we currently
29 have never or prior to this, in terms of fish,
30 distinguished between subsistence uses. The regulations
31 have a definition of subsistence uses which is found on
32 Page 91 and it reads subsistence uses, and this is also
33 found in ANILCA, means the customary and traditional use by
34 rural Alaska residences of wild renewable resources for
35 direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter,
36 fuel, clothing, tools or transportation for the making or
37 selling of handicraft articles out of non-edible by-
38 products of fish and wildlife resources taken for personal
39 or family consumption for barter, for sharing for personal
40 or family consumption and for customary trade.

41
42 While Federal regulations do not have
43 prohibitions against subsistence uses for fish, there are
44 prohibitions against the use of certain resources for
45 wildlife and these were adopted in 1990 when the Federal
46 government adopted the existing Federal regulations. In
47 summary, basically you cannot ungulates to dogs, you can
48 feed certain parts of furbearers to dogs and certain parts
49 you can't and so on so there is some definitions there.
50 The customary and traditional use determinations, of

00063

1 course, for the Yukon River and this proposal affects the
2 entire Yukon River, even though it was targeted at events
3 that transpired in the Upper River. Salmon other than
4 Yukon River fall chum salmon or residents of the Yukon area
5 including the community of Stebbins and then Yukon River
6 fall chum salmon or residents of the Yukon River Drainage
7 including the communities of Stebbins, Scammon Bay and
8 Chevak.

9
10 There is a long history of use and I won't
11 go into details of use of salmon for dog food in Alaska
12 along the river. There is also, to some degree, a use of
13 king salmon for dog food in the upper river communities.
14 Those areas where there are no runs of pink or silver, the
15 fall runs of chum salmon, fall chum occur in some years
16 late enough that it's difficult to obtain these fish
17 because of ice conditions and so on.

18
19 The primary conclusion of the Staff --
20 well, I'm going to just -- the potential effects of
21 adopting this proposal, and we find this on Page 106. This
22 proposes changes to the Federal Subsistence fishing
23 regulations would prohibit rural residents from harvesting
24 chinook salmon for dog food. If the dogs were employed for
25 transportation a subsistence use identified in ANILCA or
26 other functions contributing to a subsistence lifestyle,
27 bear watch dogs, et cetera, adopting this proposal would
28 negatively impact some subsistence users. The proposal, in
29 essence, suggests establishing a post-chinook run fishing
30 season for the taking of salmon for dog food. If for
31 management purposes, such as escapement problems, post-
32 chinook salmon runs did not -- were not open fishing after
33 the chinook run would be restricted or prohibited. Rural
34 residents would have no available supply of salmon for dog
35 food. This problem is compounded by the fact that wildlife
36 is prohibited by regulations from feeding dogs. And
37 lastly, adopting this proposal, as written, would make
38 Federal subsistence fishing regulations more restrictive
39 than current State of Alaska regulations. This could, of
40 course, change if the State opted to adopt this same
41 regulation. The restriction, therefore, would not have any
42 real effect as individuals could take chinook salmon for
43 dog food under State regulations. That would be the case
44 if the State opted not to -- the Board of Fisheries did not
45 adopt similar regulations.

46
47 The preliminary conclusion is to modify
48 Proposal 11 to the following: In the Yukon River drainage
49 chinook salmon are to be used primarily for human
50 consumption and not specifically targeted for dog food,

00064

1 except that whole fish that are unfit for human consumption
2 and that is because of disease, deterioration or
3 deformities, scraps and small jacks, king salmon under 16
4 inches or less may be fed to dogs.

5
6 The justification. The data indicates that
7 the role of dogs of subsistence economies of rural Alaska
8 has considerable time depth. Additionally, the use of
9 salmon, including chinook for dogs is documented or implied
10 because of the timing of the harvest in the historic
11 record. Nevertheless, there are problems with meeting the
12 human demand for salmon on the Yukon River and some action
13 is in order. The proposal provides dates for taking
14 chinook salmon, in which chinook salmon could be taken
15 incidentally for dog food. These dates are not included in
16 the modification for the following reasons. First, the
17 dates do not cover the entire river drainage. Secondly,
18 the dates are based on the assumption if the majority of
19 the chinook salmon will have passed. The timing and
20 strength of salmon runs vary potentially resulting in the
21 harvest of late chinooks or the loss of opportunity to take
22 other fish. That is if the chinooks ran late you could
23 potentially take them because of the dates, if the other
24 fish ran early you could potentially miss them. Lastly the
25 need for fixed dates is unnecessary given the prohibition
26 on use of chinook salmon for dog food as provided in the
27 modified regulatory language.

28
29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Vince.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, this proposal
34 did bring in a lot of letters. Six of them are in
35 opposition, three of them are from the same individual, and
36 I will try to capture the best I can their comments but
37 they are lengthy.

38
39 Cynthia Gwins of Eagle opposes this
40 proposal. She does not believe that any family in the
41 Eagle area targets king for dog food and believes there is
42 no need for a new legislation for restricting targeting of
43 king salmon.

44
45 Don Woodruff wrote in opposition. He's
46 been fishing for both chums and kings for 22 years on the
47 Upper Yukon. And he has always dried king salmon for his
48 dogs when they can't eat all the fish from processing. At
49 most times that consists of backbones, tails, eggs and
50 strips when fillet is too thick for my personal smoked king

00065

1 strips. He feels it's offense to have a Fish and Game
2 officer searching his fish take and trying to intimidate
3 him during his subsistence fishing. He doesn't feel that
4 the personal take of kings for people or for dog food is a
5 problem, especially when there's a continued False Pass
6 intercept fishery and a commercial harvest on the Lower
7 Yukon that skews the data. So Upper Yukon subsistence take
8 is subsistence take -- let me get that correct, the Upper
9 Yukon subsistence take is restricted. He goes on to
10 explain his personal harvest. Your contention that drying
11 kings is not traditional and customary is in err. He
12 provided data, I believe, when he was interviewed by Fish
13 and Game on that. I appreciate your concerns for sustain
14 yield but folks on the end of the harvest should not be
15 unfairly affected by thousands of miles of nets and wheels
16 downstream, especially those of commercial use.

17
18 There is a letter from T.P. McLaughlin of
19 Eagle, he opposes it also. He feels it's unnecessary and
20 unwarranted. He believes that it will have the
21 unintentional effect of producing more waste instead of
22 less. For example, many Native people I know will not eat
23 female kings. Under this proposal they would be tossed
24 back into the river and wasted, if not used for dog food.

25
26 I'll leave that at that, you have the
27 comments in front of you.

28
29 Scarlett Hall and I believe it's her
30 husband submitted one, two, three letters and I apologize
31 for being not clear on this but I also did not receive my
32 book until Monday so I haven't really had the time to
33 prepare as thoroughly as I normally do. But basically
34 Scarlett Hall opposes the proposal because the person who
35 pushed this issue and proposal have never set foot in our
36 fish camp. No one has spoken with us directly. Well, they
37 go on to oppose it. They have a history of use of using
38 the kings for their dogs and they lay out many facts as to
39 why they oppose this proposal.

40
41 And I think I'll stop there because you do
42 have them in front of you so you want to look at those in
43 full respect for their time and effort of submitting their
44 comments.

45
46 There was one additional comment that was
47 received after the book was published -- or put together.
48 That, again, was from Ron Inlow, the Chair of the Ruby
49 local Fish and Game Advisory Committee. He feels there is
50 a need to take measures to control harvest to have

00066

1 escapement for future natural salmon runs. Opening and
2 closing the uses of the runs -- he recommends opening and
3 closing the uses of the runs for five years. We believe
4 that the peak of strong runs there should be controlled
5 openings to allow for healthy escapements.

6
7 And that's all the comments I have at this
8 time, Mr. Chair.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have anything ADF&G?

11
12 MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I've
13 been involved with this one, Dave Andersen with Division of
14 Subsistence so I'll read the State's position on this.

15
16 This proposal would restrict the use of
17 king salmon for dog food in the Yukon River drainage. The
18 State is neutral on this proposal ut supports the human
19 consumption priority. We have in our regulations, a policy
20 that states that king salmon in these areas must be used
21 primarily for human consumption with some exceptions.
22 Because it's a policy rather than a regulation it's not
23 currently enforceable. The State will be considering a
24 proposal to make this policy a regulation this winter. We
25 have a companion proposal in front of the Board of Fish,
26 Proposal No. 156.

27
28 We also have concerns that king salmon are
29 a depressed stock and that available yield is needed for
30 human consumption. We do acknowledge that there is some
31 information indicating king salmon have been traditionally
32 used for dog food, at least, small kings or those kings
33 that are not fit for human consumption for whatever reason.

34
35 The State also noted that many king salmon
36 being harvested for dog food are Canadian in origin and
37 that the Canadians are not supportive of this use.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further
40 comments.

41
42 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Micki.

45
46 MR. STICKMAN: I believe this proposal went
47 before the Middle Yukon River Advisory Committee yesterday
48 as Proposal 156 and we passed it with the modifications.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: So Micki, would you like

00067

1 that reflected in our motion that we support this proposal
2 with modifications as recommended by Staff?

3
4 MR. STICKMAN: I'll make that motion.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, do you want to amend
7 the motion to reflect that we're supporting with the
8 modifications?

9
10 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. I just want to
11 support the motion but wanted the Council here to be clear
12 that on the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee actions on it
13 we acted on it with the Staff recommendations as far as
14 modifications.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that with the consent of
17 the second? Who seconded it?

18
19 REPORTER: Sam.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Sam. Sam, is that clear
22 with you and that you'll still second the motion as
23 modified?

24
25 MR. HENRY: I still don't understand that.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, what we're doing is
28 just amending the motion to adopt to reflect that we're
29 adopting it with modification that Staff recommended and
30 which was passed by the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee.

31
32 MR. HENRY: Okay, that sounds good to me.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion.
35 Gabe Sam.

36
37 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair. I just now
38 received this book, I actually just picked it up back
39 there. TCC supports YRDFA's proposal. And this comment
40 that opposes, for example, many of the Native people I know
41 will not eat female kings, that is not the position of --
42 one of our tribal members. The people that are making
43 these oppositions are not tribal members of TCC. Although,
44 Eagle Village is within TCC region, it's not comments of
45 tribal members and I just want to make that clear. Because
46 I've been getting a lot of calls about this whole king
47 salmon for dog issue up in Eagle and we utilize all the
48 king salmon on the river system. You know, with the
49 thought of the low return of kings and chums, you know, on
50 the Yukon River, a lot of these fish are heading to the

00068

1 Canadian waters to spawn. When this proposal was written
2 out in Mountain Village or Alakanuk, or one of them, we
3 supported it even then.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Gabe. Vince.
8 Carl.

9
10 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, could
11 somebody here-- you know, I was there at the meeting but
12 for my peace of mind, could either somebody from the State
13 or who was taking notes yesterday read the modifications on
14 this proposal?

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: George, did you have it?

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, are you asking
19 for the modifications from the Middle Yukon Advisory
20 Committee?

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Is that the request

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: I was present there and
29 neither -- during that discussion and neither was George so
30 I assume -- Ida has it, okay, and maybe the State has also.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida Hildebrand.

33
34 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee Member. I didn't bring
36 my notes with me that I took at yesterday's meeting
37 although I do have them in the village and I could read
38 those back to you after the lunch break. But what I do
39 recall, the modifications were pretty much what was listed
40 as the State's policy on Page 91. That was the basic
41 modification except you state that if the fish was not fit
42 for human consumption, it was diseased, under 16 inches.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this Page 90 or 91 that
45 you're looking at?

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: Page 91.

48
49 MS. HILDEBRAND: Right. On the top of Page
50 91 it says, existing State of Alaska fishing regulations

00069

1 and it said, it is the policy, the first line says, it is
2 the policy, but if you want something more specifically
3 after the lunch break I can get my notes and give those to
4 you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. Any
7 further comments. Questions. Does that answer all your
8 questions, Carl?

9
10 MR. MORGAN: (Nods affirmatively)

11
12 MR. BURR: Mr. Chairman.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

15
16 MR. BURR: It's my recollection, I also
17 don't have my notes from yesterday's meeting but I believe
18 the modified proposal was essentially the same as the
19 modified proposal that is on Page 107 of your book that is
20 suggested by the Federal Staff Committee. It's essentially
21 the same thing as what's written on Page 98 as the
22 proposal.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, in the middle of Page
25 107, is that the final modification?

26
27 MR. BURR: Mr. Chairman, it's my
28 recollection that the modification that was presented
29 during the Advisory Committee meeting yesterday was
30 essentially the same as what's written in the middle of
31 Page 107.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are we clear on this
34 modification now? I think so. Any further questions or
35 comment. I'm getting hungry.

36
37 MR. STICKMAN: I call for the question.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called for.
40 All in favor of supporting Proposal 10 as modified signify
41 by saying aye.

42
43 IN UNISON: (Nods affirmatively)

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

46
47 (No opposing votes)

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Chair will request a
50 show of hands for a vote because we can't hear over this

00070

1 forced air furnace. All those in favor of signifying by
2 raising your hand, again.

3
4 IN UNISON: (Affirmative)

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Opposed, same
7 sign.

8
9 (No opposing votes)

10
11 MR. MATHEWS: The motion is to support and
12 adopt?

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: The motion is to support and
15 adopt it as modified. Is that fine, Tina, you got it?

16
17 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's fine. Thank you.

20
21 MR. STICKMAN: I call for a recess.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a call for a lunch
24 break, recess, try to get back in one hour or less. One
25 hour would be fine. We'll reconvene at 1:30. Thank you.

26
27 (Off record)

28
29 (On record)

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'm going to call the
32 meeting back to order. We're on Page 2 of the agenda.
33 Vince.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, for the
36 Council members, I put a file where you're sitting. This
37 is the material I've been referring to that was on the
38 plane. These are items that we couldn't get into the book
39 in time and that's where the biography of General Oates is,
40 as an example. And then in respect to Jack Reakoff's
41 standing request, I forgot to get the Title VIII in the
42 book. So I have Title VIII, a copy of it in your file
43 here. It's on the mustard colored paper. And it is true,
44 it should be always available at each meeting. For those
45 that need the full text of Alaska National Interest Lands
46 Conservation Act, I have the full text, meaning titles one
47 through 14 or whatever it is.

48
49 And Donald was pointing out something that
50 we're going to cover later but you have the full text in

00071

1 your operations manual which we'll talk about later on the
2 agenda. That's all I have for this moment. Thank you.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. At this
5 time I would like it also to reflect in our minutes, get
6 letters out thanking out the community of Nulato for the
7 covered dishes and the lunches, and probably send out some
8 thank you letters to our hosts. Again, I know it's quite a
9 burden for some of our villages.

10
11 Is there anything on the agenda or can we
12 go right on to.....

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, no, there was
15 no -- we just go ahead -- or you go ahead as the agenda is
16 laid out. So the next item would be an update on Federal
17 Subsistence Fisheries Management so that would be the next
18 item.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, who's covering this?

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that would be
23 Don Rivard.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you that would
26 be about 30 seconds -- no, I'm out of line, Mr. Rivard.

27
28 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am
29 Chief of the Division -- the Interior region division.
30 Another division within our office is the Fisheries
31 Information Service. And I'm representing that division
32 today as well. They are quite busy with processing all the
33 proposals they got in for 2001. They received over 200
34 pre-proposals that they're going to be paring down starting
35 October 16th, so that's why nobody from that particular
36 division is here today. They've got their hands full.

37
38 What I would like to do is give a brief
39 summary of what the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
40 is and some of the things that they've done this summer as
41 well as the time line for the next couple of years. So
42 I've got an overhead show here for you. There's also, for
43 those of you that would like a hard copy of this, I also
44 have about 20 copies that can be distributed later.

45
46 This is in Tab D of your booklets, a much
47 more detailed information on the program, this is just a
48 brief summary of it. I would like to start reading a
49 little bit about this program to introduce it here in the
50 booklet. The Resource Monitoring Program is a unified

00072

1 interagency effort led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
2 Service to enhance Federal capability to manage subsistence
3 fisheries and for the capacity building and integration of
4 rural communities and Alaska Native organizations into
5 fisheries management. The Federal Subsistence Resource
6 Monitoring Program is consistent with the Secretaries of
7 Interior and Agriculture's continued commitment to maximize
8 reliance on non-Federal partners and provide broad, direct
9 and meaningful roles for rural Alaska Natives.
10 Implementation of the resource monitoring program is being
11 accomplished primarily through agreements with Alaska
12 Department of Fish and Game and Alaska Native and other
13 organizations.

14
15 So what is the Fishery Resource Monitoring
16 Program? Well, it's meant to identify and bring together
17 information on subsistence fisheries. It funds studies to
18 collect information which is needed but is not currently
19 available. And the information is generally of three
20 types. The subsistence harvest patterns, stock status and
21 abundance trends and traditional ecological knowledge.

22
23 As far as Alaska Native and rural organization
24 involvement in the program, it consists of subsistence
25 users, villages, Native organizations, tribes, rural
26 groups, Regional Advisory Councils and government agencies,
27 which are used to identify issues and information needs,
28 review annual study plans and work together to conduct
29 studies that address identified issues and needs. And
30 there is a local hire preference. This year 83 local
31 residents were hired, 69 of which were Alaska Natives.

32
33 For this now past fiscal year 2000, there
34 were 160 proposals received, 45 of which were funded, 5.6
35 million in total funding was awarded, as follows: 3.5
36 million from the Department of Interior budget and 2.1
37 million from USDA Forest Service budget.

38
39 Where the money went, 38 percent of the 5.6
40 million went to Alaska Native or other organizations as
41 local hires, 40 percent went to fund Alaska Department of
42 Fish and Game proposals and 22 percent of the funds went to
43 Federal agencies.

44
45 Now, we're getting into some of the
46 important dates for 2001. You can also see some of this
47 information on the third page under Tab D. The important
48 dates include January 2001, the Regional Advisory Councils
49 will develop recommendations on annual study plans during
50 the special training meeting that we're planning to have in

00073

1 January. That is also addressed on Page 60 of the booklet,
2 I believe -- I'm sorry, I got -- just disregard that Page
3 60.

4
5 Now, there are some problems with the 2001
6 schedule that we've had. The annual study plan review
7 schedule does not fit the Regional Advisory Council meeting
8 schedule. The Regional Advisory Councils do not have much
9 time to review these annual study plans and prepare
10 recommendations and the investigators do not have much time
11 to prepare the pre-proposals or their investigation plans.
12 Now, what's going to happen is for the next year, 2002,
13 they're stepping up pre-proposal submission dates so that
14 the schedules can coincide more with RAC meetings.

15
16 For 2002 and beyond, there's -- if you look
17 on the fifth page of the booklet, it's a little bit more
18 detailed there, but this schedule will allow for the annual
19 study plans to review its schedule to fit with the Regional
20 Advisory Council meeting schedule. Regional Advisory
21 Councils will have more time to review annual study plans
22 and prepare recommendations and investigators will have
23 more time to prepare their pre-proposals and investigation
24 plans.

25
26 So like I say, for 2001 we've already
27 received over 200 pre-proposals and then the next round,
28 for 2002 and beyond, the deadlines will be around February
29 1st. So this is going to, as you can see on Page 5 there,
30 that pre-proposals are due.

31
32 In September and October 2001, the Regional
33 Advisory Councils will develop recommendations on these
34 annual study plans during their regular fall meetings so a
35 year from now.

36
37 Also involved with the Fisheries
38 Information Service will be some more positions that will
39 be with rural organizations, and up to nine professional
40 positions will be like this. Six are anticipated to be
41 fishery biologists and three will be social scientists.
42 The positions will be distributed among management in
43 regions based on need and the organization's housing these
44 positions will be chosen by an open competitive process.

45
46 There's also a subsistence fisheries
47 harvest assessment working group and this working group
48 consists of tribal, State and Federal members organized
49 under a project conducted by the State's Division of
50 Subsistence and the Alaska InterTribal Council. The

00074

1 project will develop a unified harvest assessment program
2 for all subsistence fisheries. A draft report has already
3 been distributed for review and it was sent out on the 5th
4 of September with comments due back by October 25th. And a
5 tribal working group member was assigned to work with
6 people from each area of the state.

7
8 That's it on the cooperative monitoring
9 positions and program. There are descriptions of what was
10 funded under -- in Fiscal Year 2000 in your booklet towards
11 the back of this section here, and there's also extra
12 copies in green on the table in the back.

13
14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mr. Rivard. Are
17 you covering this whole area, this whole section?

18
19 MR. RIVARD: The whole area of.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Update.

22
23 MR. RIVARD: Just up through the Western
24 Interior projects under Item IX.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, he's covering
29 the cooperative projects. B of this subject is to deal
30 with in-season management. I don't know if Don's covering
31 that but I think that more likely it will be Monty Millard
32 with Tom Vania from Fish and Game and then for the
33 Kuskokwim it would be Charlie Burkee and then, of course,
34 the coordinating fisheries committee members. So that
35 comes up next on the agenda. But the main thing that is
36 here and I need to confirm this with Don is -- we haven't
37 had time to talk, is that, the material that you just
38 presented will be used as the main topic in the January
39 meeting, correct?

40
41 MR. RIVARD: Yes. There's going to be a
42 three day training session in January and the first day of
43 that training it's anticipated it will be a full day of
44 just going over these proposals, the pre-proposals for 2001
45 and the whole process again and possibly summarizing what's
46 been done in the year 2000 -- fiscal year 2000.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. If -- the

00075

1 next time I'll make sure we number these pages, but if you
2 remember at the meeting in Fairbanks, you had had a
3 subcommittee that met in the evening and Mr. Brelsford met
4 with them and discussed issues and concerns. That's
5 summarized part way in through this and then that's what
6 they used to determine what are the needs -- one of the
7 things they used to determine the needs for the area. And
8 you'll have that opportunity as Mr. Rivard said, a year
9 from now under a normal cycle, you'll have these plans and
10 at that time and at any time you meet, if an issue comes up
11 that you feel warrants some type of study then that would
12 be incorporated into the process. And all of a sudden a
13 lot of hands are going up. I saw Angela and then Ida and
14 then there was another one, Mr. Chair.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Angela.

17
18 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: I have a question for
19 you, what does a social scientist do? Where are they?

20
21 MR. RIVARD: I do not have a good answer
22 for that. George, could you help me out a little bit?

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 MR. RIVARD: I'm a fishery biologist, I'm
27 sorry.

28
29 MR. SHERROD: A social scientist would be
30 an anthropologist, an economist, sociologist, someone from
31 those fields as opposed to a biologist, a wildlife or
32 fisheries biologist.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Who else had their hand up?

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Ida.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida.

39
40 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
41 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee Member. Under Tab D on
42 what Don was talking about, on the last page under that tab
43 is a tentative agenda for the January training session, you
44 might want to spend some time looking at that or some time
45 during this meeting, not necessarily today and see if you
46 want to add anything or delete anything for the January
47 training session, thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ida. Were we
50 going to go through this Vince?

00076

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I'm glad Ida brought
2 that up. It is on the agenda later and the program knows
3 and is honoring your request from your last meeting that
4 this Council along with the Eastern Interior and
5 representatives of Yukon-Kuskokwim wanted a fisheries
6 workshop. So do think about that and when it comes up o
7 the agenda we need input on what you would like at that
8 workshop as far as fisheries management on the Yukon and
9 the Kuskokwim in addition to what we just discussed now,
10 the -- what I call the monitoring projects. So it comes up
11 later on the agenda but do think about it.

12
13 As I discussed with you in the summer and
14 earlier this fall we weren't able to have that workshop
15 because the staff that's necessary to have a good workshop
16 are in the field doing their work or actually managing at
17 that time, and then the other complication was to have it
18 in November conflicted with the data collections so it's
19 now in January to couple it with this resource monitoring
20 projects to have with it, training on fisheries management
21 using the Kuskokwim and Yukon River. Basically stay tuned
22 for January but we need your input on what you would like
23 from that workshop so we make sure when that workshop is
24 completed that we've met your goals.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. So on the
27 agenda we're looking at Western Interior area projects, the
28 next item?

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: They're in your book there,
31 Mr. Chairman. I don't know how actually to handle that.
32 At your -- let's see all these meetings start blending
33 together, at your February meeting -- first at the January
34 meeting that you had last year, January 2000 you were
35 exposed to a lot of these projects then and asked a joint
36 three Councils, Yukon-Kuskokwim, Western Interior and
37 Eastern Interior, you reviewed these 2000 projects and
38 approved them. Those that came in after that you reviewed
39 them at the Fairbanks meeting with Eastern Interior and
40 approved them. And I believe they're just provided in here
41 to give you an update -- well, not an update, to tell you
42 which ones went forward.

43
44 For example, the one that had quite a bit
45 of discussion and Eastern Interior is an example, project
46 No. 4, humpback whitefish, seasonal fishing habits in the
47 Yukon Flats. That was one that you, along with following
48 the request from Chuck Miller, the Chair of Eastern
49 Interior and I can't remember the other mover of it, that
50 the program just not only focus on salmon that they focus

00077

1 on other non-salmon species. So that was one project you
2 guys approved in there. And you also had it in your list
3 of issues that you wanted to make sure that subsistence
4 uses just don't depend on salmon. So those projects are
5 here. They are, I believe the same as they looked like in
6 your meeting last February, and I think I'm still losing
7 you, though, but.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, let's lose it though.
10 No action needed?

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: No action. This is an
13 informational item. It's to provide you an update of
14 what's going on and to make sure that you're aware that you
15 play a role in reviewing these projects and your role is in
16 determining, along with others, what are the needs for the
17 area. And then also your role is to see these projects to
18 see if you would agree with them so when the Board takes
19 them up on the schedule and I don't have it in front of me,
20 that they know where the Regional Council or Councils sit
21 on this. Obviously with three Councils on the Yukon and
22 two Councils on the Kuskokwim, the Board will want to know
23 where all those Councils feel on these projects. So again,
24 that will be one of the duties inherent to the coordinating
25 fisheries committee to kind of review these projects, if we
26 can at all possible, beforehand so they can work together
27 to assist you in understanding which ones you need to
28 really concentrate on.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Then
31 we're looking at another teleconference before the Federal
32 Subsistence Board meets, right?

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: No, we're not, not on this
35 stuff unless someone on Staff corrects me. No. Well,
36 maybe we are, Ida -- the program is evolving pretty quickly
37 so I'm not up to date as much as I usually am.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida.

40
41 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman, Ida
42 Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee Member. These projects
43 under Tab D were the ones that we rushed through last year
44 on the training session in January. We met in caucuses and
45 most Councils complained there wasn't enough time, they
46 wanted more time to review but the program had to get going
47 and so it was done in an abbreviated process. This year as
48 Don has stated, we have, I think, 298 proposals and there
49 are quite a number from this region. And those are still
50 in the process of being reviewed and they'll be put in a

00078

1 package and brought before the Council in January, the 2001
2 projects. And in the January session is when you'll have
3 time to review the projects for the next round. And
4 there'll be another meeting for you to, in your next cycle
5 of meetings, to begin to look at the projects for 2002.

6
7 So as Don stated, hopefully by 2002 they'll
8 just be presented to you at your regular Council meeting
9 instead of having special meetings. And these projects,
10 for instance, the first one on disease, all I've heard on
11 that so far is basically they're still -- the project's
12 ongoing. There's still disease in the fish it's just not
13 as noticeable. But that project will have a report once
14 it's completed and all the reports will be sent back to the
15 Council and to the Board and to everybody.

16
17 So it isn't -- these projects under Tab D
18 are not new, they're just the ones that began during this
19 year.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ida. That's
22 exactly what I was looking at, what kind of time frame
23 we're looking at as far as prioritizing and everything and
24 if we can get a hold of these proposed projects and their
25 locality, I think we could get them out to our Regional
26 Council members as soon as possible so we can start
27 planning on prioritizing and either ripping them apart or
28 going forward with these projects in our January meeting.

29
30 I remember, both us and a few other
31 Regional Councils saying that we didn't have enough time to
32 study some of these projects, even though they were old. I
33 think that was just what I was looking for and do we have
34 any action or anything else to be taken on this except to
35 go forward with it?

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, if I'm
38 understanding correctly, you would like a package of the
39 pre-proposals provided to the coordinating fisheries
40 committee prior to this January meeting as soon as
41 possible, is that what you're request is?

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that's what I was
44 looking at. And I would -- I think the whole Council would
45 like copies of this, okay?

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I just wanted to get
48 that clear because -- so the Staff would know that we need
49 to get them on that list, the mail out.

50

00079

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida.

2

3 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman, the
4 proposals have just come in and the committee that's
5 assigned to review them has just begun to process, they
6 haven't screened them yet but once they're screened they'll
7 be going out.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: So I would feel comfortable
10 if we got them say mid-December, a couple of weeks before
11 we go to Anchorage, if that's possible? Even January would
12 be fine.

13

14 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman, I shall
15 relay that to the committee, however, it will go as fast as
16 the committee can go through them.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I'd sure appreciate it
19 because I think two weeks will be enough time to review it
20 and then it will still be fresh on our minds when we hit
21 that training down at Anchorage. Thank you, again, Ida.
22 Did we have anything else on this?

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: No, on the cooperative
25 project and resource monitoring unless other staff have
26 some comments to share.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have anything more.
29 Any questions. Comments. Reports. If not, what's this
30 ADF&G, Alaska InterTribal Council, what's that, request for
31 comments?

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, when we put
34 this agenda together -- I really don't know what that's
35 for. There was -- they were funded, Alaska Department of
36 Fish and Game and the AITC Alaska InterTribal Council were
37 funded to look at a statewide harvest monitoring, how
38 that's going and can it be improved. I'm drawing a blank
39 right now if we have any material on that, but they did
40 request comments about how harvest monitoring is being done
41 across the street. So there may be someone else here who
42 has information on that but they were awarded a contract to
43 look at statewide. I'll see if I can find something in the
44 book on that on their project award.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: So there's nothing that
47 needs to be done on this either, uh, except if you find it
48 and see what kind of comments.....

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: I think what will happen is

00080

1 it will happen when the 10 Regional Councils meet in
2 January. That would be my best guess. And I do caution
3 you, that we are loading up a lot of stuff on that January
4 meeting and so we'll do our best to make sure that it's
5 clear what we want from you at that January meeting and
6 what you can expect from us. But I believe that issue will
7 be covered by -- but Dave's got something here.

8
9 Mr. Chairman, he is pointing it out under
10 there but I hate to keep bringing up, I just got the book
11 Monday and I'm not aware of this letter but it is there.
12 If you page under Tab D beyond the projects and you run
13 into a spreadsheet, then also you get a letter that says
14 subsistence fisheries harvest assessment working group.
15 That's the request. I'm -- I would need time to prepare to
16 present what they have here unless someone else here has
17 been involved in that.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Rivard.

20
21 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair. That was the
22 last overhead that I put up, talking about that. I don't
23 know the details as well but it does point out that a draft
24 report was distributed on September 5th and comments are
25 due back on the 25th of October. I'm not sure who all got
26 that report so we did address it a little bit.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: So in other words, we don't
31 have to do anything on this?

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Correct, Mr. Chairman. And
34 again, like I said we'll work better at the January meeting
35 to make it clear what we can provide and what we expect
36 from you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Next item on the agenda is
39 summary of 2000 in-season management; who's covering this?

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, this was going
42 to be kind of an open forum. What I mean by that is as you
43 know you have two coordinating fisheries committees, one
44 for the Kuskokwim and one for the Yukon. I would think if
45 the agencies and Staff agree, this would be a time to kind
46 of review how the season went -- that's going on now,
47 actually, for the fisheries and then during that discussion
48 the coordinating fisheries committee members can share
49 their comments of how well it went, how to improve it and
50 what didn't work and go from there. I'm not sure the

00081

1 agency staff are ready to present that under this topic so
2 if they are then it'd be a good time to have the in-season
3 manager for like the Kuskokwim River, start with that, and
4 then just have an open discussion on the season, how it
5 laid out.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I think that would be
8 appropriate because I do want to discuss purpose of our
9 coordinating committees, the part of our committee members
10 and what not on this. I believe that we did put quite a
11 load on Benedict and Micki and we were in teleconference
12 with Carl and Ray at one time, too. Is anyone covering
13 this right now, Kuskokwim?

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Charlie
16 Burkee is the area biologist for the Alaska Department of
17 Fish and Game. He contacted me and is present here and I'd
18 personally like to thank him for coming here to present to
19 the Western Interior Council the materials, and I believe
20 he'll also be talking about the Kuskokwim Salmon Working
21 Group.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, before we begin for
24 everyone's information, we are probably the most diverse of
25 all Regional Councils. We cover from the Wiseman all the
26 way to Aniak so instead of dumping our problems over from
27 the Yukon River committee to the Kuskokwim Committee, we
28 separated and appointed two members from the each river.
29 We had Benedict Jones and Micki Stickman on the Yukon River
30 committee and Ray Collins and Carl Morgan on the Kuskokwim
31 River committee. So with that I'd like to hear more about
32 this.

33
34 Charlie.

35
36 MR. BURKEE: Mr. Chairman, I'll just
37 introduce myself first. My name is Charlie Burkee, I live
38 in Bethel. I work for the Alaska Department of Fish and
39 Game and my title is the Kuskokwim area management
40 biologist for the Commercial Fisheries Division. My
41 primary responsibility, me and my staff, is to manage the
42 commercial and subsistence salmon and herring fisheries and
43 the fresh water fin fish fisheries in the Kuskokwim area.
44 I've got a report prepared for later on in the agenda and
45 I'm not going to go into that now. I really wasn't -- I'm
46 really not all that prepared to speak on this topic, I'll
47 give it my best topic. But I do have a little bit more of
48 a detailed presentation later on in the agenda here under
49 agency reports. So just bear with me and I'll try to just
50 focus my discussion here on the in-season -- basically the

00082

1 in-season management of the Kuskokwim River subsistence
2 fisheries in 2000.

3
4 The Kuskokwim River salmon fishery is -- of
5 course, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has primary
6 responsibility for management of the subsistence and
7 commercial fisheries on the Kuskokwim River, but also we
8 manage that fishery cooperatively with the a group called
9 the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group. Carl
10 Morgan has been a member of that group as an alternate and
11 he has participated in many of those meetings over the
12 years so Carl is intimately familiar with the Kuskokwim
13 River Salmon Management Working Group. So basically it's a
14 group that was established by the Board in 1987 to work
15 with the Department of Fish and Game, in-season and post-
16 season, management of the Kuskokwim River salmon fisheries.
17 That's all the fisheries, subsistence and commercial
18 fisheries. And it's composed of a group of -- it's
19 composed of a wide variety of users, different user groups
20 of that resource, subsistence, commercial, processing,
21 elders and others, and the Department of Fish and Game make
22 up this group, it's 11 members strong. It has 11 member
23 groups in it right now -- 12, I'm sorry.

24
25 But anyway, this year was something new, in
26 that, on October 1, the Federal government took over
27 responsibility, established their responsibility for
28 management of the subsistence fishery. As far as the
29 Kuskokwim River is concerned, their jurisdiction was
30 basically from Aniak on downriver in the Kuskokwim River,
31 so they had assumed authority for management of the
32 subsistence fishery in those waters. So they basically
33 became a part of the management team in 2000. Mike
34 Reardon, the Refuge manager for the Yukon Delta National
35 Wildlife Refuge was designated as an in-season management
36 authority representing the Federal Subsistence, Office of
37 Subsistence Management. And right from the get-go, Mike
38 Reardon and his staff and the Federal Subsistence Staff
39 integrated themselves with the Department and the working
40 group and in-season we worked together very closely with
41 the working group to manage that fishery.

42
43 Some of the highlights or lowlights of the
44 season as you would view them, depending on your point of
45 view, from my perspective the coordination between the
46 Federal managers and the Department managers and the
47 Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group was very
48 good. We worked together very well. We were able to give
49 and take, back and forth, exchange opinions and information
50 and data and what have you. And we were able to, I

00083

1 believe, in my mind, we were able to come to consensus
2 amongst ourselves as to what should be done. And some of
3 the things that were done was we had -- I'll get to it, I
4 don't want to steal the thunder from my later presentations
5 here, but basically we had an extremely poor chinook and
6 chum salmon return to the Kuskokwim River this season,
7 2000. It became evident quite early in the season when
8 subsistence fishermen were reporting that they were having
9 to work a lot harder for the fish, the fish weren't coming,
10 the catches were -- their harvest rates were very poor
11 throughout the year on chums and chinook salmon. The
12 information that the Department and Fish and Wildlife
13 Service, Federal government was collecting basically
14 mirrored -- was corroborated that the information we were
15 receiving from subsistence users. And it really lead to a
16 very very conservative commercial fishery. I'll go into
17 that in more detail later on when I talk about the
18 commercial fishery and the river.

19
20 But as things progressed it became evident
21 to both the Department, the Federal managers and the
22 working group that we had a real run failure, a real
23 problem on our hands as far as the strength of the salmon
24 returns. And in consultation with various Native
25 organizations including the Kwethluk IRA Council, the AVCP,
26 ONC, TCC and the McGrath Native Village Council, KNA, we
27 worked together. In consultation, some of the things that
28 we did during the season was we issued a, what we call, a
29 cooperative appeal, and this was a news release,
30 cooperative appeal to all he Kuskokwim River subsistence
31 fishermen alerting them that the king salmon run was
32 extremely poor, was extremely weak this year and requesting
33 that they voluntarily do what they could to limit their
34 take of king salmon as much as possible because of the need
35 for king salmon escapement to provide for yield in the
36 future.

37
38 And also along with that, the Department of
39 Fish and Game and the Federal subsistence managers worked
40 together to draw up and implement basically emergency
41 regulations to do what we could to provide for the
42 subsistence harvest opportunity but to decrease, as much as
43 possible, to conserve as much as possible king salmon,
44 especially the larger female king salmon, larger male king
45 salmon for escapement needs. And the Alaska Board of Fish
46 met on July the 7th or July 8th in emergency session and
47 they established what are called emergency regulations and
48 these emergency regulations, they basically restricted the
49 subsistence fishery to using gill nets of six inch or less
50 mesh and they basically reduced the take of -- or the bag

00084

1 limit for the rod and reel subsistence fishery to one
2 chinook salmon per day per person. This was done to allow
3 -- to conserve as many of king salmon, especially the large
4 king salmon for escapement.

5
6 This was all done in very close
7 consultation with the working group and the Federal
8 subsistence managers. A day later, a day or two later, the
9 Federal Subsistence Board met in emergency session and they
10 basically passed their emergency regulations, special
11 actions or whatever -- I think it's called a special
12 action, that basically mirrored the steps that the Board of
13 Fish took to conserve the king salmon.

14
15 So basically those are -- that's what I
16 have, I think, as far as addressing this topic of the
17 fisheries management with the Federal and the State and the
18 working group. I also might want to add that Carl Morgan
19 and Ray Collins participated in a lot of the working group
20 meetings in which these topics were discussed and which the
21 run assessment was discussed and the data was exchanged
22 along with Nick, his name escapes me.

23
24 MS. HILDEBRAND: Robert Nick.

25
26 MR. BURKEE: Sorry, thank you. Robert Nick
27 from Nunapitchuk, he was basically representing the Yukon-
28 Kuskokwim RAC as part of the Kuskokwim River Coordinating
29 Fisheries Committee. I think that's about all I have to
30 offer and I'll stop there if there's any questions.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

33
34 MR. JONES: Yeah, when you were -- on the
35 subsistence fishing, you said one king per day, did the
36 fishermen, if I was there fishing do I have to man a fish
37 net to see that only one king is caught?

38
39 MR. BURKEE: Well, this regulation involved
40 subsistence fishing with rod and reel. So basically what
41 the regulation said was if you're subsistence fishing with
42 a rod and reel that you are allowed to catch one king and
43 you're allowed to catch and keep one king and then you were
44 done for the day basically. If you were using a gill net,
45 we didn't put any limits on the amount of fish people could
46 take with a gill net, we just required them to use the
47 smaller mesh net which would primarily catch jack -- small
48 jack male salmon chinooks, and you know, chums or reds or
49 any -- cohos or any other kind of salmon that were out
50 there, and would allow the larger female and the larger

00085

1 male salmon to basically bounce off the net and continue,
2 it would lower the catch of them.

3

4 MR. JONES: Yeah, you should clarify it.
5 You didn't state rod and reel the first time, that's why I
6 misunderstood.

7

8 MR. BURKEE: Okay.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.
11 Vince.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I did talk to
14 Ray Collins, he's was member of the coordinating fishery
15 committee and he wanted to -- well, he shared with me that
16 he was very appreciative to participate in the working
17 group meetings. It was difficult for him to participate
18 with them because they generally met in the evening or met
19 on a weekend sometimes and so he wanted to make sure that
20 in the future that it be possible a little bit for more
21 forewarning, if possible. And also he had difficulty
22 participating in them because he didn't have the materials
23 that the working group had. So that's something that our
24 program is going to work with the Alaska Department of Fish
25 and Game to improve upon because I was taxed with the
26 Yukon River one and wasn't able to spend as much time on
27 the Kuskokwim but also did not receive the materials so I
28 couldn't help Ray out on that. So it's something that
29 we're going to work over the winter for next cycle that we
30 can get the materials to the people that are participating
31 in these working group meetings so they can track along
32 better. And I wish Ray was here that he could share his
33 comments because he was very appreciative to be able to
34 listen into the working group.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl, do you have anything
37 to share on how your assessment of that working group.

38

39 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, you know, like Ray was
40 saying, I did participate previously in the early '90s in
41 the working group. But you know, when I was sitting
42 through these meetings I knew how the proceedings went and
43 the meetings are -- the conclusions are decided through
44 consensus and with -- you know, we worked that out years
45 before which kind of it works for the people that's really
46 outnumbered. I sit through those and I was kind of
47 frustrated, you know, I -- I'm used to, when there's an
48 action item coming up on the floor I'm used to voting. And
49 we were there as -- what were we, observers, yes,
50 observers. We had no voting right. We were just there to

00086

1 sit and listen and comment. And that's my basic
2 frustration about that. It was very -- like I say, it's
3 always nice to sit through these, even though like Ray
4 Collins says, some of the material -- but sometimes these
5 people meet every other day, every two days and they meet
6 and try to accommodate some of the working people, they
7 meet during lunch, from noon to 1:00, 1:30, 2:00 o'clock.
8 But I'd like to bring that on the table for our January
9 meeting, if we do participate in any more salmon working
10 groups along the two rivers, that there should be some
11 consideration for some voting right on the Federal land.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I think that's
16 what I was looking for. We've got to review all the
17 avenues that we can to seat our members as voting members
18 and I think we should pursue this issue somehow. We'll
19 dump everything on that January meeting, I guess.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I believe
22 and Charlie can confirm this, that there will be post-
23 season -- what's it called, post-season evaluation or
24 planning, at least I got that from Jerry and from the
25 Refuge, that they're planning on looking over the season.
26 So these comments will be shared during that post-season,
27 whatever the word is. Because that's what I got from
28 Jerry, that there will be discussions between the State and
29 Federal program because it was a rough year. And so I
30 believe they're having that, I don't know, maybe Charlie
31 can -- maybe I'm on the wrong track but that was my
32 understanding.

33

34 MR. BURKEE: Well, Mr. Chairman, there will
35 be -- the working group will meet on Monday the 9th for a
36 preseason wrap up and we're just going to review the whole
37 season, all species and what have you. It's an overall
38 review of the whole season. And of course, the Federal
39 coordinating fisheries committee members will definitely be
40 inviting and encouraged to attend, and you know, Jerry Berg
41 has already, basically said he will attend and I'm sure
42 that the Refuge manager, Mike Reardon, his staff will
43 probably attend, too.

44

45 A few comments I'll make on some of the
46 things that have been said here is that we recognize from
47 the get go, that getting the working group information to
48 these new "ex-officio members" was going to be a problem.
49 And we discussed that and tried to work on that with the
50 local Refuge staff and everything, and quite frankly, I

00087

1 guess, you know, we haven't figured it out yet how to -- we
2 haven't ironed out all the bugs on that and that probably
3 contributed to Ray's frustration, not having the
4 information in front of him. Unfortunately, getting the
5 information out to the working group members is all that
6 the Department's able to do. So we're definitely looking
7 to the Federal Staff to help us out on that. And we'll
8 continue to work on it and try to figure out how to best do
9 that.

10
11 The other comment I'll make is that the
12 working group determines its membership. So i the Federal
13 fisheries -- Federal Office of Subsistence Management or
14 the RACs or whatever, basically they need to approach the
15 working group and to apply for membership. And like I say,
16 the working group determines its membership so I would
17 encourage you and -- encourage you to approach the working
18 group to be added as an official voting member some how,
19 some way. I can't speak for the working group, but the
20 process is there and it is -- you can take advantage of
21 that and can do that if you so wish.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: To obtain membership, what
26 does that take?

27
28 MR. BURKEE: Well, basically you need to
29 approach the working group, just basically approach the
30 working group and request membership. And like I say, the
31 working group has bylaws and they've outlined their
32 membership and they can change their bylaws and they can
33 change their membership. Different groups in the past have
34 come in and, you know, they've modified their membership
35 over the years. They've added new members, they've dropped
36 members and things like that. So I can't say, you know, I
37 can't speak for the working group as to, you know, how
38 feasible -- the feasibility of this is but it's definitely
39 something that needs to be taken up with the working group.
40 The working group would have to be approached and they
41 basically -- the working group basically looks at the
42 different users of the resource and they say okay, this
43 group of people needs to be represented so there's a member
44 seat that represents this constituency. There's a member
45 seat that represents commercial fishermen in District 1 and
46 there's another seat that represents commercial fishermen
47 in District 2, another district, there's three seats on --
48 there's presently three seats on the working group that
49 represent subsistence fishermen in the lower part of the
50 river, in the middle part of the river and in the upper

00088

1 drainages of the river, too. So like I say the working
2 group membership is something that the working group
3 basically decides what their membership is and there is a
4 process for changing and modifying the membership.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: How does the Council feel,
7 do you think that just a letter requesting membership would
8 do or should we take more action on this?

9
10 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
11 bring it up at our January meeting so we can have all the
12 advisory and all the Council members in this and probably
13 have it in the agenda for our January meeting.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Addressing only the
16 membership of the voting part or you mean more or less
17 deferring it to our January meeting to.....

18
19 MR. MORGAN: Yes, because I think that
20 we're going to have to involve everybody because I think
21 it's going to take more speaking. And since the Feds are
22 serious about taking over I think, you know, we either have
23 to be a full participating member or we'll have to create
24 our own. You know, I'm just throwing things up in the air.
25 So what I think is it should be up to the full training
26 session in January.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: I think in all respect to the
31 working group, would the Council be interested in
32 requesting through different channels that Mr. Burkee be
33 kind of requested to be at that meeting and also a
34 representative of the working group because he's got to
35 speak too here, and for the January meeting would be to
36 request, you know, just a letter or whatever because I
37 don't know his priorities or whatever, that it be possible
38 you attend the January session and a representative of the
39 working group be allowed to attend that since you're going
40 to openly discuss their system or am I out of line, I don't
41 know.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah. All we're doing is
44 trying to join and we're making a roundabout thing about
45 it. Do you think we need action right now, that's all I'm
46 asking?

47
48 MR. MORGAN: I don't believe we need action
49 right now, I think we'll leave it to the January meeting.
50 And if he needs a formal invitation to the working group,

00089

1 to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, there's other
2 members besides Charlie that can come. Who's lives at
3 Anchorage at this time? Doug, you know, I think there's
4 other members that -- I think they've got other members
5 that I think will be open.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, at this time then I
8 would direct Vince Mathews to write a letter to Kuskokwim
9 Working Group requesting membership in -- or whatever the
10 case, protocol, see what it takes to get a voting
11 membership out of them. Will this satisfy the Council for
12 now?

13
14 IN UNISON: (Nods affirmatively)

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. The next item then
17 would be the Yukon.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. If the
20 same format is fine, it would be great if the in-season
21 manager for the Federal Subsistence Program, as well as the
22 area biologist and then I have supporting material on the
23 coordinating fisheries committee. I was able to
24 participate more in that process on the Yukon. And with
25 the changing in Staff, that's why Donald is here, I hope
26 that next cycle I'll be able to budget more time to cover
27 both the Kuskokwim and the Yukon. But with your
28 indulgence, I may need a lot more phones. But basically
29 we're going to try to shuffle Staff time to make sure we
30 can cover both drainages more accurately so we can be part
31 of your team and respect to Jerry Berg, he is the biologist
32 on the team for the Kuskokwim, but he was unable to attend
33 this meeting, and in all respect to him I was able to be
34 freer to deal with the Yukon because of his close
35 interaction with Mr. Burkee and with all the other ones, so
36 you were covered, the Council, as far as your team
37 membership there and Jerry Berg did an excellent job on it
38 but we need to improve next year on that. So with that
39 I'll get out of that waters and we'll start on the Yukon.

40
41 MR. MILLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
42 name is Monty Millard and I've been delegated in-season
43 management authority by the Federal Subsistence Board for
44 this first year. The first year has been actually quite
45 difficult. We you're all aware, it's been a very
46 difficult and unusual year for fishermen all up and down
47 the Yukon River. I'd like to just start with a few
48 comments and then possibly Tom can get into some very brief
49 comments about the chinook and summer chum run and then
50 I'll try to handle a few comments on the fall chum and coho

00090

1 run.

2

3 Basically, you've all been informed, I
4 think, thoroughly throughout the season, if not, I
5 certainly want to hear about it and how we can do a better
6 job.

7

8 Maybe to put it all in perspective, if you
9 can imagine the Yukon River and put it on a scale of the
10 Lower 48, a river that runs from Wisconsin to the Pacific
11 Ocean and all the states in between, well, Wisconsin feels
12 differently and then of course, Minnesota you run into
13 North Dakota and those No Ducks, they think differently
14 from the people in Idaho and Montana. And the same thing
15 we find along the Yukon River, all the different issues,
16 all the different needs, all the different desires and all
17 the different consumer groups along the river and that's
18 what we run into every year. I really came to gain a new
19 appreciation for the good work that the ADF&G does
20 throughout the season. They collect almost all the data at
21 the present time. We're trying to begin processes to help
22 them further do their job. But overall there's a few
23 stumbles we made during the year. I think the coordination
24 progressed better throughout the latter part of the season.
25 I spent a reasonable amount of time down in Emmonak, the
26 Staff is very limited. Communications was extremely poor.
27 It took until the fish run was essentially over before we
28 had a telephone. In the beginning portions of the year, if
29 I wanted to make a phone call, basically I had to go put a
30 quarter in the machine and make a long distance call. This
31 was a very difficult year for all of us, particularly on
32 the Federal side, and because of that, I think it impacted
33 some of the State activities also. But again, I'd like to
34 compliment the State and all the good work that they did.

35

36 I think maybe if we just spend a couple
37 minutes apiece just talking about the various runs, which,
38 again, I think you're familiar with, we'll just try to
39 address your questions, if possible?

40

41 Following this there will be a protocol
42 discussion. A week ago Thursday, we had a sit down with
43 the State, talked about the season, what went right, what
44 went wrong, it was a very open and candid conversation
45 between both agencies. I think it was very helpful to all
46 of us, ways we can improve, and you're going to have your
47 opportunity to tell us how we can improve also.

48

49 With that, I'll just let Tom discuss, very
50 briefly, this season.

00091

1 MR. VANIA: Thank you, Monty. Mr.
2 Chairman, Tom Vania with Fish and Game. And kind of
3 looking at this we were kind of interested in finding out
4 from the members of the coordinating fisheries committee
5 how they felt how the season went for them and your
6 participation in the in-season management and your role
7 that took place this summer. We did discuss between
8 agencies, the protocol that was in place for the season.
9 We discussed shortcomings and the benefits of it and the
10 need for improvement. And I believe now we're kind of
11 looking for the committees, the members of the committee
12 and their opinion on how they felt their role was taking
13 place during the summer and what we need to do to improve
14 that role and what we can do to facilitate the role of the
15 committee.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tom. Any
20 comments.

21
22 MR. STICKMAN: I was a member of the
23 coordinating -- I was a member for the Western Interior
24 Council. Some of the things that bothered me about the in-
25 season management as far as fishing went because they had
26 commercial openers in Y1 and Y2 for king salmon. And then
27 when the king salmon got up here to Y4 and we were just
28 fishing for subsistence needs only, restrictions were
29 placed on us. So in that respect both departments, the
30 State and the Feds failed because subsistence needs weren't
31 met. People have to fish longer, we had to fish harder and
32 still they only got between 60 and 70 percent of their
33 subsistence needs met. The other thing that I can see is I
34 have to thank them for the great job that they do is that
35 YRDLFA, the lead organization for the teleconferences, when
36 they first began their organization it was the startup of
37 commercial fishermen only. So there's a lack of
38 subsistence user information being placed into the process.

39
40
41 That's about all I can say as far as in-
42 season management.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki. You had
45 something Vince?

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I was wondering if
48 Benedict had some comments because he was in the trenches
49 with us and traveled quite a bit to Fairbanks. I'll see if
50 he has any comments and then I can share some information.

00092

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

2

3 MR. JONES: Yeah, this is Benedict.

4 Sometimes I was discouraged with some of the in-season
5 management. First I asked earlier in the season or the
6 January season that the meeting -- that we should,
7 especially for the salmon run there on the coastal area,
8 that we should -- like we projected that it was going to be
9 a little low salmon return this season, that I requested at
10 one time in January meeting that somehow we have to open
11 and close the season but in Fort Yukon, Yukon Fishermen
12 Association didn't like the idea because the Western Coast
13 area they wanted to target their first king salmon run.
14 And I questioned a lot about that during our
15 teleconference, I said, why are you targeting the first
16 pulse of the run and they said well, the weather but if you
17 have good weather all summer, like this summer -- we have
18 good weather in the spring and there's no reason why they
19 couldn't wait for the second pulse to hit before they go
20 and target the salmon runs. Because they're heading
21 Canadian bound for the first pulse and they said on their
22 reports, they keep reporting every day, they say we got 50
23 percent, the next teleconference they said we got 100
24 percent. And I don't see why a reason why they should be
25 delayed or the fishermen on the western coast because I
26 think the salmon condition is still the same on the coast
27 as the first pulse because for the first pulse for our
28 salmon up on the Yukon is better condition then the third
29 and second pulse.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. Vince.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just a minute, Vince.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Sure.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you have something to

42 add?

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I do.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Willie.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, sorry, I didn't see him.

49

50 MR. GOODWIN: I just had a question here,

00093

1 in your evaluation after the season, were there any of the
2 user groups in your meeting or was it just the biologists
3 in your office evaluating the season?

4
5 MR. MILLARD: At that particular meeting,
6 it was internal discussion between ADF&G and the
7 participating agencies within the Federal government.

8
9 MR. GOODWIN: So you didn't ask any of
10 these guys what they thought of your management in-season?

11
12 MR. MILLARD: Well, that's basically what
13 we hoped to accomplish today and I think later on there'll
14 be an open discussion of the comments that came out of the
15 protocol discussion. But it was, like I indicated, a very
16 difficult year for the agencies, first year we had an
17 opportunity to become directly involved and we thought it'd
18 probably be more practical to hash out some of our things
19 and then present them to you as a group, what our thoughts
20 were and then get the feedback from the RACs on their
21 particular perception of not only how this season went for
22 them and their constituents but also how they perceived our
23 own internal discussion.

24
25 MR. VANIA: I also believe it was part of
26 the protocol that the two agencies meet and review what
27 took place during the summer time, and it's also part of
28 the protocol that the RAC members, as well, review the
29 protocol and see how they felt the summer went as well.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Willie.

32
33 MR. GOODWIN: Well, I just -- even though
34 I'm not from here I'm concerned, because that's probably
35 what the Board will hear, the Subsistence Board, how well
36 they thought they did. So I think it's an opportunity for
37 you to voice your opinion on their management style.
38 Because I see a lot of these guys that are working for the
39 Federal Fisheries Program that are past ADF&G employees.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Willie. Vince.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Willie, I
44 participated in all the YRDFA teleconferences and a whole
45 bunch of other teleconferences. If -- I'm not sure if
46 Monty and Tom answered your question correctly or at least
47 in my opinion, when we came to a point where a decision had
48 to be made to deal with restricting seasons, I know as a
49 fact that Monty and his staff made extensive phone calls to
50 the coordinating fishery committee members and to the

00094

1 Chairs both of Eastern, Western and YK and counterparts.
2 But maybe I'm lost here but before decisions were actually
3 made, I saw extensive consultation on the Federal side and
4 I can't speak for the State side but I believe that it was
5 also there of consulting individually and as groups before
6 the decisions were made. So I'll leave it up to the in-
7 season managers to correct me on that but that's what I
8 observed.

9
10 MR. MILLARD: I believe Willie was talking
11 about the protocol meeting.

12
13 MR. GOODWIN: Right. What I was asking
14 about, if they involved anybody in their evaluation of how
15 the season went.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, I apologize for that
18 because it was a rough season and Benedict's phone cord is
19 probably a lot longer with all the calls and Micki's sister
20 I haven't met yet and she's probably ready to take me out
21 and hang me. But all the phone calls we dealt with you
22 guys was a tremendous amount of effort on their part and
23 that's what's referenced in the material. I know it's on
24 pages here but I really want to share the respect to those
25 members, including Ron Sam, Angela and others, there's a
26 chart there I developed the amount of involvement they
27 throughout the season which deterred from all the other
28 activities. That's charted out there and then also the
29 coordinating fishery met twice on fairly short notice to
30 address key junction points. And the key junction points
31 are when the preliminary data indicates poor returns, when
32 there's a possible divergent from State and Federal is when
33 we activated the coordinating fisheries committee separate
34 from the Yukon River Fisheries Drainage Association, and I
35 do apologize to Willie on that, I just -- I just know the
36 tremendous amount of effort that I've never seen go on in
37 all my years with wildlife management that went on with the
38 in-season actions on the Yukon, it was tremendous around
39 the clock phone calls. But anyways, I'll stop there.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Monty.

42
43 MR. MILLARD: Just a concluding comment on
44 my part, that all of you have indicated concerns. Most of
45 you indicated concerns about the commercial fishery in the
46 lower river. I don't know exactly how we handle that but
47 that's where, I think, you, as RAC members play very, very
48 important parts to try to develop proposals or get someone
49 else to provide proposals so we can have Staff Committee
50 analysis of those proposals. But your place is definitely

00095

1 post-season for the evaluation of the way things went and
2 proposals can be provided and then we will try to work
3 within those guidelines as they come out to the Federal
4 Subsistence Board.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida Hildebrand. There's a
7 mic and open chair on this end, too.

8
9 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Ida
10 Hildebrand, Staff Committee Member. Especially Monty's
11 last comment, that the Council needs to get involved in
12 post-season evaluations and review of what happened, and I
13 think this is the beginning of the process and as both
14 Monty and Tom stated, the agencies looked at what happened
15 this summer and asked how did we do and what needs to be
16 improved and are here to tell you that's what they did and
17 ask for your opinions of how it went. And on the YRDFA and
18 other working group, I sat in on some of those and I have
19 some real concerns about that. I think it's a good means
20 to test the waters on what the users are saying, but the
21 bias is not subsistence, there's a definite commercial bias
22 in those phone calls and therefore, I think, the Council
23 needs to address how can the Council become more involved.
24 And I really agree with Monty and Tom that the Councils
25 need to start really getting involved in the post-season
26 and evaluation. And the more you look at what you can
27 improve and how you can do things different after the
28 season and the pre-season before the next go around, then
29 there would be less confusion and less urgency, I mean the
30 timing will never stop, that burden will always be there.
31 But to really to begin -- for the Councils to really begin
32 that discussion, not just to say we didn't like this or how
33 we can make it better and to discuss it at this meeting as
34 well as in your January meetings. And I just didn't want
35 that comment to go off slightly that to get involved in
36 post-season isn't a dismissal of this Council but I believe
37 it's a real urgency for the Council to look at what went
38 right, what went wrong, how can we improve it. If YRDFA
39 isn't the answer in its present condition, is there another
40 response or another way we can tap into that resource or
41 add to that resource.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ida. How long
44 are we going to be down in Anchorage in January? Angela.

45
46 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, Ida, for your
47 words of wisdom, you're always good at that. Monty
48 Millard, I really appreciate what you guys done this summer
49 with us, we were on teleconference for many hours and many
50 days with YRDFA and I did ask you a question and you said

00096

1 it was a good question to ask and I'll ask it now. When
2 you're doing your planning for next year, could you give us
3 information on when we had the bad years, how long did they
4 last? Like you said, in the 20s and 50s we had really bad
5 salmon runs. In the 20s and 50s, how long did the bad runs
6 last, two years, three years, 10 years, that kind of
7 information so -- I know we've had four bad years, this
8 year being the worst, are we going to look forward to
9 having better fishing in the future or is this all we're
10 going to have from now on?

11
12 We need that information because things,
13 you know, like this morning, Mr. Goodwin was talking to us
14 about the caribous, they slumped down and they came back
15 up, and so the fish do the same thing.

16
17 But again, thank you for your efforts this
18 summer you did a real good job with this even though we
19 didn't get enough fish and even though we were closed a
20 lot, you did the best you could.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 MR. MILLARD: Well, after those kind words,
25 I'll just say, yeah, fishing's going to get better, it
26 can't get any worse.

27
28 MR. VANIA: Don't say that.

29
30 MR. MILLARD: Oh, yeah, don't say that. I
31 think we can assume that this is going to turn around
32 eventually. It's occurred in the past with caribou and
33 fish back in the '20s and I think some of your elders would
34 say that they've had bad runs in the past and if you read
35 Shadows of the Koyukuk by Sidney Huntington, he's going to
36 say that when he was growing up they had to move to the
37 main river because there weren't any fish in the Koyukuk.

38
39 I think this is a temporary thing. I don't
40 know if it's going to be two years or 10 years. I think
41 next year is going to be just as bad, if not worse.
42 Looking at the scale pattern analysis indicating the number
43 of five year olds that came back, there's going to be very
44 few six year olds next year and that's the ones that
45 normally produce a larger fish and the ones that everyone's
46 interested in obtaining. And I certainly anticipate and
47 the State probably at this point that's where we'll be
48 looking next year and we'll be looking at restrictions
49 probably sooner next year as opposed to later.

50

00097

1 But again, that's all going to be developed
2 in pre-season planning and we'll be definitely more
3 involved this year in that and far more interested this
4 year, we'll have far more staff to help work with the State
5 on analysis, we'll be trying to develop various scenarios
6 like if something occurs early in the season, how would we
7 want to react to it. You'll be involved in the pre-season
8 planning process, much earlier this year. I think things
9 will go a lot smoother in the future in every year you
10 folks participate.

11
12 MR. VANIA: Thank you for your comments,
13 Angela. In probably trying to answer your question on how
14 long this will last, we're not quite sure but in the past
15 we seen some cyclic nature in the returns of chinook. In
16 the '70s there were some poor returns, I believe they
17 lasted four to five years before the rise started coming
18 back up. Like you said, now, this year we are in the third
19 bad year for chinook, next year, like Monty said, we're not
20 anticipating a good return based on what we saw for five
21 year olds coming back. It's highly unlikely that we'll
22 have any commercial fishing at all next year. It is
23 possible that we will go into the season at the beginning
24 with subsistence restrictions in place. And one of the
25 things that we'll be looking for from the RACs as well as
26 Fish and Game Advisory Committees and the people from the
27 area, is input as to how they would like to see subsistence
28 restrictions be put into place throughout the season.

29
30 The only bright hope we have is the coho
31 return that came back. Coho salmon are out in the ocean
32 for only one year and there was an average to above average
33 return on the Yukon River for coho. I believe the
34 Kuskokwim also had a pretty good return. So that might
35 give us an indication that maybe this productivity problem
36 that we're having in the ocean might be starting to turn
37 around. We would not see that immediate effect in chinook
38 salmon since they've been out in the ocean during these
39 hard times for them. But we could see that in the chum
40 salmon return, they tend to bounce back a little quicker,
41 they're not in the ocean as long. So next year is not
42 looking good, it's not looking better than this year. The
43 future beyond that is hard to tell especially with summer
44 chum, but maybe the coho return might be an indication that
45 maybe things might be coming back on the upswing so maybe
46 we wouldn't be looking at such a bad decadel regime that we
47 seen in the '70s.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

50

00098

1 MR. JONES: Yeah, during the fish in
2 migration from the ocean, do you monitor the ocean
3 temperature air and water temperature and wind condition?
4 Because I heard a lot of reports from the elders in the
5 Western coast, is that, when the salmon migration if the
6 wind is favorably and the tide condition and everything is
7 favorably, then this Yukon -- entered into the Yukon River
8 drainage but if the tide and the wind condition is not
9 favorable, if it is flowing from the north, the fish will
10 stay further away from the coast. Have there been any
11 studies in that?

12
13 MR. VANIA: I believe it's NMFS that's
14 probably doing studies on ocean temperatures and looking at
15 patterns on entry into the rivers with chinook salmon,
16 favorable storms do help in pushing fish into the river, we
17 do see larger pulses of fish coming in on favorable storms.
18 We're unsure whether if weather conditions are right
19 whether that will cause salmon to stay out in the ocean
20 another year or not or if it's more based on growing
21 conditions, whether they're not ready enough to come back
22 from the ocean or not of whether they need to stay another
23 year out there and get additional food.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Henry Deacon and then Vince,
26 how much more do we have in this subject? Go ahead, take
27 Henry Deacon first.

28
29 MR. DEACON: Yeah, I just want to know, who
30 monitors the high sea fishing, is it low or high? Does it
31 get low like our river salmon here? You know, I hear a lot
32 of things about, it's just all scientific stuff, they know
33 where the fish are and they fish them out before they
34 mature to come back into the streams.

35
36 MR. MILLARD: Well, there's been a lot of
37 discussion not only between the RACs, but Governor Knowles
38 to the State Fish Board, Federal Subsistence Board,
39 National Marine Fisheries Service, there's a lot that's
40 going to be done over this next year, two or three, there's
41 disaster relief funding. A lot of pressure being put on by
42 all parties, including yourselves, with your resolutions
43 which are having an impact, those resolutions, by the way
44 should be turned into proposals, for instance, rather than
45 just a resolution so they can be studied. But again, we
46 have very little impact within the river. We're in-season
47 managers, freshwater. National Marine Fishery Service is
48 putting additional funds into climate monitoring controls.
49 They got instruments out there that's monitoring the
50 circulatory patterns of the Bering Sea. More and more is

00099

1 going to be done. All your voices are having an impact.
2 Keep up your invoices because eventually something's going
3 to be done.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. You know, we're
6 involving Ted Steven's office, Murkowski's office and Don
7 Young's office in this high sea fisheries issue and there's
8 no way in heck that we can address it. We don't even know
9 how far our resolutions go and to who we request monies.
10 So Gabe Sam, real short, did you want to.....

11
12 MR. G. SAM: I just had a question for Tom
13 Vania.

14
15 REPORTER: Gabe.

16
17 MR. G. SAM: Yeah, I just had a question
18 for Tom. I was listening to you back there and this is the
19 first I've heard of it, as you know in Y4 they haven't had
20 a commercial season for a number of years now, you know,
21 you heard it all on the YRDFA teleconferences, people have
22 had their arguments, we want to commercial fish, we have a
23 fisheries, you know, they just haven't had their chance.
24 And now I hear, you know, you said that there may not be a
25 commercial season next year and also there may be
26 subsistence restrictions right off the bat. Now, that's
27 something that I think needs more discussion on.
28 Especially if there's not a commercial season, people out
29 there are going to be depending more and more on their
30 subsistence needs for fisheries.

31
32 Where did that come from?

33
34 MR. VANIA: Thank you, Gabe. This is just
35 a really early indication that we're seeing and we're just
36 trying to get the word out now based on what we've seen in
37 the summer. Our formal outlook won't come out probably
38 until March or April. But this is a time when everybody's
39 gathered in meetings and we're looking for input, we're
40 looking for comments from people and just starting to
41 prepare people for a season which we don't anticipate to be
42 a good season.

43
44 Again, as I said, it's unlikely that we're
45 going to have a commercial fishery based on what we saw
46 come through on the season. Again, we manage based on what
47 comes in each season, we do in-season management but we do
48 have the outlook which kind of gears us, gets us ready,
49 helps prepare for the season. But again, this is just an
50 indication -- it's an environment here where we can start

00100

1 bringing up discussions on how we want to handle the next
2 season as we see it starting to develop at this time,
3 that's all.

4

5 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair, I guess I could
6 also generate that same question to Monty, you know, will
7 the Feds support this theory that's going to be generating
8 throughout these other meetings. I mean it's going to, of
9 course, have a lot of discussion. I was just sitting there
10 thinking, writing things down, you know, the meetings to
11 come, at the Board of Fish meetings, you know, this whole
12 dog fish for issue, there's just a whole -- you know, it's
13 leading up to the point where, you know, our subsistence
14 fisheries has to be protected. I mean it's a need out
15 there that people expect to have every summer, you know.

16

17 I never thought when Dr. John White said
18 people on the Yukon, people on the Kuskokwim are some day
19 going to have to stop fishing altogether, I thought, you
20 know, I was like, yeah, right, we're going to stop fishing.
21 It never crossed my mind that I'd hear it today.

22

23 MR. MILLARD: All right. Tom mentioned
24 commercial closures and subsistence restrictions, he didn't
25 say what type. Maybe this is going to be -- and this is
26 where the various RAC groups enter into it, maybe it's
27 going to be commercial closed on the lower river, maybe
28 it's going to be a two day restriction for subsistence on
29 the lower river, maybe it's not. But all he's indicating
30 and which I, at this point support, we're going to have to
31 have severe commercial restrictions. What those commercial
32 restrictions are, they're going to come from you and from
33 other people within the state. And all he indicated is
34 that we're going to have to be looking at restrictions next
35 year. The input, pre-season planning, you're all going to
36 participate in it.

37

38 Gabe, you're certainly welcome to
39 participate too.

40

41 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Let's see, Charlie mentioned
44 something about a report, didn't we cover enough about
45 these -- cover your report, too, so that about takes care
46 of it.

47

48 MR. MILLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair, just one last

00101

1 point.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Point or question real
4 quick, please.

5

6 MR. G. SAM: Monty, he said there may not
7 be a commercial fishery, he didn't say commercial
8 restriction. He said subsistence restrictions, that's what
9 I was getting at, the subsistence restrictions. And that's
10 it, thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Gabe.

13

14 MR. MILLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, sometime during
17 discussions in this meeting, we need to go over the
18 schedule between now and January because I'm hearing
19 requests to do post-season and et cetera, which are very
20 good, but to complete the wildlife proposals, the Federal
21 Subsistence Board meets in December, so as Staff we're
22 pretty busy up until the, November may have some openings.
23 January, the Board of Fish meets from, I don't remember the
24 exact dates, January 4th, 3rd through January -- February --
25 I'm getting a hand signal over there but I can't make it
26 out. Anyway, it's the beginning of January through the
27 beginning of February.

28

29 I've put in a request that we, through our
30 program, negotiate with Alaska Department of Fish and Game
31 -- where am I going with this, where I'm going with this is
32 the people that we need to have at the January training
33 session are going to be committed to the Board of Fisheries
34 meeting, and the people that you would like to have at a
35 post-season are going to preparing for Board of Fish
36 meeting. I suppose I'm showing some frustration here, I
37 don't know how I can meet your needs and also maintain all
38 these schedules. So somehow or another we have to workout
39 a way that the key people can be present or assist you and
40 also perform their duties for the various boards they
41 support. So I'll leave it at that but it's something to
42 think about, that January meeting, I don't know Tom Vania's
43 schedule or Bonnie Borba's schedule, but I believe they'll
44 be working the Board of Fisheries because of the 100 plus
45 proposals that are there. I don't know if they latitude to
46 attend your training session, so it's something to consider
47 in these meetings.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. It's now
50 five minutes after 3:00, let's take a half an hour break,

00102

1 okay. Okay, okay 10 minutes.

2

3 (Off record)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to call the meeting
8 back to order. The next item on the agenda will be covered
9 by Rod Simmons and introduction by Vince. Okay, do we have
10 Rod Simmons covering.

11

12 MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
13 name's Rod Simmons, I'm with Fish and Wildlife Service and
14 recently took a position with the Staff Committee and the
15 Federal Subsistence Board for Fish and Wildlife. One of
16 the things I've been assigned is to work on the Yukon
17 protocol. I'll turn your attention to the protocol that is
18 in your packet under Tab D, towards the back part of it.
19 The Yukon protocol was developed as somewhat of a draft for
20 the Year 2000 only to see and test the effectiveness of the
21 protocol. Were you able to find it in your packet? Look
22 under Tab D towards the back of that section.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: B.

25

26 MR. SIMMONS: D as in dog. It should be
27 entitled Yukon River Drainage Subsistence Salmon Fishery
28 Management Protocol for the Year 2000.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

31

32 MR. SIMMONS: And essentially what that was
33 to refresh your memory on the protocol was to establish a
34 document that would formalize the working relationship
35 between the Department, the Federal in-season manager and
36 the relationship with the Regional Advisory Councils.

37

38 Part of the discussion just before the
39 break centered on sort of a post-season evaluation to sort
40 of see how the cooperation worked between the managers as
41 well as with the Regional Advisory Councils and whether
42 they felt that there was adequate opportunity for input and
43 communication.

44

45 One of the things that we discussed last
46 week at the meeting that was mentioned between the
47 Department and Federal agencies on their impressions of the
48 protocol and how things went with the post-season
49 evaluation was the need to bring Regional Advisory Council
50 members into this process, particularly related to the

00103

1 protocol in formulating the protocol into a long-term
2 protocol rather than just an annual one. Because as of
3 now, it's only effective through December. And what we
4 were going to propose to do is to bring in some Regional
5 Advisory Council representation into a meeting in November.
6 And I think that may also be an opportunity to get more
7 focused discussion on sort of a post-season discussion as
8 far as the Regional Advisory Council perspective on the in-
9 season management and any modifications that need to be in
10 terms of communications, involvement. And so that's what's
11 kind of laid out on the table at this point, would be to
12 bring in some Regional Advisory Council representation for
13 a meeting to, not only discuss the post-season evaluation
14 but also to formulate and attempt to finalize the protocol
15 into a long-term document.

16
17 That's all I have.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, as many of you are
20 aware, as far as development of these protocols and the MOA
21 itself, the Council Chairs were involved to some extent.
22 When you're looking for more input, are you looking for
23 appointments or direction from us to send people to
24 participate in this protocol development?

25
26 MR. SIMMONS: Yes, Mr. Chair, we are at
27 this point. Since you're the first Regional Advisory
28 Council meeting for the Yukon, just sort of suggestion or
29 recommendation on your part in terms of the membership to
30 bring in. I would suggest that -- we're trying to keep the
31 working group small, so I would suggest that one or two
32 members from each Regional Advisory Council come in to
33 participate in this.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, the reason I was
36 asking that is because we do have two coordinating Council
37 members for the Yukon River and two for the Kuskokwim,
38 would you be able to accommodate these four?

39
40 MR. SIMMONS: Well, given that this
41 protocol is specific to the Yukon at this point, yes, we --
42 I believe we could accommodate two if the coordinating
43 members -- the coordinating fishery committee members, if
44 that was your recommendation for representation then I
45 think we could -- that would be fine.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, like Rod just
50 said, this is just the Yukon River, it's only a protocol

00104

1 for them so it would be -- if the Council agrees, Micki and
2 Benedict would be the two representatives of that
3 coordinating fisheries committee.

4
5 I need to ask Rod a question if I could?
6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead Vince.
8

9 MR. MATHEWS: So would a draft then be
10 available of the protocol at the January meeting for the
11 Council to review or would these two members have to kind
12 of fully represent the Council at this meeting in November?
13

14 MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chair, I believe with the
15 time sequence, we could probably have a draft of final
16 protocol for consideration in January if we could -- that
17 would be somewhat dependent upon the severity of the issues
18 that were raised in November, in terms, of whether those
19 could be resolved between November and January.
20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.
22

23 MR. MATHEWS: The reason I bring that up is
24 the way you guys set up the coordinating fishery committee
25 is that they assist the Council that you did not give them
26 your authority to speak -- to vote in your behalf, that
27 they would report back to the full Council. So if the full
28 Council is in Anchorage and that can pull off then all of
29 you will be seeing the protocol. That's where I was going
30 with that.
31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: That we'll all see the
33 protocol or development or whatever stage it's at in our
34 January meeting?
35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. And then I assume if
37 it's not completely near final, you'll have enough there to
38 give direction as to whether you would stand on it. I
39 think that's a very reasonable compromise there to meet
40 your very ambitious schedule as I talked about earlier.
41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, my next question would
43 be then to Micki and Benedict, would you feel comfortable
44 in attending all these meetings?
45

46 MR. STICKMAN: How many meetings are we
47 talking about?
48

49 MR. SIMMONS: I believe we're talking about
50 one meeting in November to specifically discuss the

00105

1 protocol. Well, one meeting from my perspective. I know
2 you have lots of meetings. Specific to this protocol and
3 the post-season evaluation discussions, it would be one
4 meeting only in late November.

5
6 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. The only reason I ask
7 this is because as Vince said, you know, me and Ben, we
8 don't have no authority to make decisions on behalf of the
9 Western Interior Advisory Council but we're just mainly
10 there for information gathering and information sharing and
11 then we get together as a full committee that's when we do
12 make our decisions.

13
14 MR. SIMMONS: Yeah, I think that's what we
15 all have in mind. That we realize in November, whatever
16 decisions are made, that that is strictly sort of
17 preliminary discussions or wherever we go with the final
18 protocol, it wouldn't be until January where full Regional
19 Advisory Council review would take place before anything
20 was finalized.

21
22 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, one meeting in
23 November would be no problem for me.

24
25 MR. SIMMONS: Great.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict, would you be able
28 to attend one meeting in late November?

29
30 MR. JONES: Yes, I would.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Again, as Micki
33 stated and from what I'm gathering this would be more a
34 work session than outright policy acceptance or
35 development, a work group?

36
37 MR. SIMMONS: That's certainly the way I'm
38 viewing it, is more of a work session.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. So as far as the
41 Yukon River is concerned, then we are covered as far as the
42 Yukon River protocol is concerned, right?

43
44 MR. SIMMONS: (Nods affirmatively) Thank
45 you.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, since we're
48 talking protocols, maybe -- do we need to have any planning
49 for a protocol for the Kuskokwim River or is there one
50 needed for the Kuskokwim River? The reason I say that is

00106

1 I, personally, have a high focus on the Yukon and always
2 forget about the Kuskokwim so is there a need for a
3 Kuskokwim protocol and is there one scheduled?

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: I have one question on that
6 issue also. Because if I remember right when we worked on
7 the Yukon River protocol, didn't we encompass Kuskokwim by
8 Region 4 or 5 or 3 or something?

9
10 MR. SIMMONS: My understanding of it is is
11 essentially the draft Yukon 2000 protocol was used in the
12 Kuskokwim and other areas as sort of a general guideline.
13 And from my understanding of what is planned for 2001, for
14 protocols, has come out -- I've recently been appointed as
15 a member of the work group under the MOA that develops
16 these protocols, and my understanding of it is is what
17 we're looking at is possibly a general protocol for the
18 entire -- for all regions and then with a subset of
19 protocols specific to areas where there tends to be more
20 conflict and more need for more specific protocol such as
21 the Yukon, the Kuskokwim, I've heard discussions about the
22 Copper River so I think what we're going to see is a series
23 of protocols under development over the next several years.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, the reason I want this
26 issue answered now is because I cannot see leaving out the
27 Kuskokwim out of all of our discussions. We know we have
28 problems there, too. Shouldn't we just go ahead and call
29 this the Yukon/Kuskokwim protocol or what?

30
31 MR. SIMMONS: Well, I think because of the
32 nature of the group that's formed for the Kuskokwim, that
33 things are slightly different and the fishery is executed
34 differently than it is in the Yukon and so consequently I
35 don't think it would be nearly the effort to develop a
36 separate Kuskokwim protocol as it was for the Yukon. So I
37 think, you know, better than half the work's already been
38 done in the Yukon protocol as it would apply to a Kuskokwim
39 protocol.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, we do have two
42 distinct different groups developing these -- I mean
43 working through these issues as they develop. Carl, do you
44 have anything to add on this?

45
46 MR. MORGAN: No, Mr. Chairman. I'm just --
47 I'm open just as much as he is. I'm just agreeable, you
48 know, any protocol that you can work and if we need to be
49 involved then I'm open to that.

50

00107

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: So would you want to
2 participate in this workshop if possible?

3
4 MR. MORGAN: That's fine, I'll leave it
5 open.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Or would you just
8 rather.....

9
10 MR. MORGAN: I'll just leave it open. I'll
11 leave it open. If the need is there, I'm sure Vince or you
12 will get a hold of somebody in the Western Interior.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. Okay, is
15 there any action needed? We pretty much appointed Benedict
16 Jones and Micki Stickman.

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: There is no action for this
19 item at this time.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd really like to thank,
22 both, Benedict Jones and Micki because we, at the Western
23 Interior, have really depend heavily on them for covering
24 our whole district -- I mean the whole Western Interior
25 Subsistence Council and area. Thank you

26
27 Did you have anything else to add?

28
29 MR. SIMMONS: No, Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. Vince, did
32 we cover all the other -- I assume we covered other
33 protocols when we covered Kuskokwim, right?

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. All you
36 have left here is there was a discussion on the Board of
37 Fisheries Sustainable Salmon Policy, and there was a
38 question about it's relationship to the Federal Subsistence
39 Program. I don't know if that's still a timely topic or
40 not so I'll defer to the Council member that requested it.
41 I think Jack wanted it on the agenda, I think, if I got it
42 correct, sustainable salmon policy.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'll turn the mic over to
45 Jack.

46
47 MR. REAKOFF: I attended the Fish Board
48 meeting in the spring, whenever that was, March or April,
49 March. And I spoke at that meeting to the Fish Board
50 regarding the sustained fisheries policy. And I felt that

00108

1 the promulgation of that policy should have -- it placed
2 the burden of equitably throughout all of the users in a
3 time of reduction in the harvest. And I took exception to
4 that and I felt that subsistence users should not be placed
5 under the same burden as commercial and other sport uses
6 would be as subsistence has the highest priority.

7
8 And I don't think that they quite changed
9 the language. They said it was really there but I didn't
10 feel that that policy, it should be clear language to
11 commercial and all other users, what the intent of that
12 policy is, but that's not what the Board passed, per se.
13 In the protocols, like the protocol that's being worked on
14 for the Yukon River, it's real apparent that subsistence
15 has a priority but that's not what the policy of the Fish
16 Board was.

17
18 And that's about all I have to say on that
19 issue.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you want to pursue it any
22 further? Do you see any other way?

23
24 MR. REAKOFF: I don't see any other way.
25 They basically told me that's all they were going to do
26 about it.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: And this is the Board of
29 Fisheries?

30
31 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you have anything else
34 on that Vince?

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: No.

37
38 MR. DEMOSKI: Mr. Chairman, can I make a
39 short announcement.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pete Demoski, we have a mic
42 up here. Pete Demoski, Tribal administrator, Village of
43 Nulato.

44
45 MR. DEMOSKI: I don't know what time you
46 guys are going to adjourn but people in the community are
47 preparing food to bring to the hall at 6:00 o'clock.
48 Whenever you adjourn, it's up to you people, but you can
49 just stay here in the hall until the food gets here or you
50 can return to your lodgings and return again at 6:00,

00109

1 that's up to you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Pete. Through
4 your office, would you thank the residents of Nulato for
5 the Western Interior Council, for both housing and feeding
6 us, through us, thank you.

7

8 We're under Item D, Yukon River Regional
9 Council January resolutions. Vince.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, there is
12 several reasons this is on the agenda, the first one is you
13 requested it to be on the agenda and I'll discuss that
14 after I go over some background material, and the second
15 reason was just to share with you the letters of response
16 to your three resolutions. And they're under Tab D, I
17 don't know, about three-quarters of the way back, and Micki
18 will probably talk about, he presented these resolutions to
19 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council in
20 September. Basically, Craig Fleener of Eastern Interior
21 requested that representatives of the three Yukon Regional
22 Advisory Councils send representatives to the North Pacific
23 Management Council. We were able to get two members to go,
24 one was Micki and the other was Craig Fleener, so Micki
25 will probably talk about that later.

26

27 But the resolutions are there in front of
28 you. We have received correspondence from McGrath Native
29 Village Council. They support the efforts and studies on
30 the impact of hatchery salmon on wild stock and the marine
31 intercept fisheries that affect subsistence uses. You have
32 a copy in your book signed by Mike Fleegal, first Chief of
33 McGrath Native Village Council. You also received a letter
34 in from the St. Mary's Native Corporation through me that
35 they unanimously support the adoption at the caucuses --
36 they unanimously support the three resolutions, and their
37 letter is placed in there. Kwethluk Incorporated sent a
38 letter on March 3rd supporting the three resolutions. They
39 echo the concerns of the Kwethluk Joint Group in addition
40 to those of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, et
41 cetera. The letters are in front of you. Their letter was
42 to Mitch Demientieff, Chair of the Subsistence Board to
43 give due consideration to the three resolutions and then
44 they passed a resolution in support of the resolutions.
45 And then the Nightmute Traditional Council, which I believe
46 I shared with you at your last meeting. And those are the
47 correspondence I received to date.

48

49 You requested that this be on the agenda
50 because of when the fisheries, this past in-season, were

00110

1 becoming more and more restrictive, you possibly wanted to
2 discuss with the Regional Council No. 3, which was a
3 resolution in opposition to hatcheries on the Yukon River.
4 I don't know if you still want to do that at this time, it
5 would be the Yukon and Kuskokwim River. It was in light of
6 discussions of possibly enhancing, if that's the word, wild
7 stocks through uses of hatchery techniques, I believe, is
8 the reason you wanted this on the agenda.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: I know I requested it but I
11 forgot why I requested it. I think everyone's aware of
12 these resolutions. We can just introduce them to -- Micki.

13
14 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, actually Vince, as
15 part of the coordinating committee to represent the Western
16 Interior Advisory Council and I went before the North
17 Pacific Fisheries Management Council and I gave them copies
18 of our three resolutions and I also talked about the poor
19 salmon runs on the Yukon River. And one of the points that
20 I did point out to them was that with the clean biological
21 work being done on the Yukon and all the cooperation
22 between the users, that it's very clear that the problem
23 that we're having with our salmon runs is out there in
24 their arena of authority.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, again, Micki. I
27 think the reason that I requested it be on the agenda is
28 the wild stock that is escaping in Southcentral or
29 Southeast, someplace, that it's more or less misplacing the
30 natural wild stock, and I was just wondering if we had any
31 updates on that?

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: I have no updates but there
34 may be other Staff here that have information. But I think
35 what you were getting at with having this on the agenda is
36 there has been discussions on different parts of the Yukon
37 River, and I'm out of my field here so I think some other
38 biologists will fill in here, of using techniques to
39 rearing bins or rearing something or another to protect
40 wild stocks on the spawning streams which are considered by
41 some to be a form of hatcheries. There was also
42 discussion, of using wild stock through different
43 hatcheries to get them to a different stage and then
44 release them into rivers. I think that's what you were
45 concerned about, that the resolution would say no to any of
46 those activities.

47
48 And I think that the three Councils were
49 looking at hatcheries in the sense of introducing non-
50 Native species, but that's, I think, why you wanted to

00111

1 bring it up was to find out.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: If I remember, the passage
4 of this resolution, it was totally formed to protect wild
5 stock, right?

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. You
8 directed me and the joint Councils at the last meeting to
9 send a letter to all that received the three resolutions,
10 that the intent of the three resolutions were to protect
11 wild salmon stocks. And that was mailed out August -- July
12 or August. So there may not need to be anymore discussion
13 on this. Eastern Interior, I believe, will be discussing
14 it because of potential projects on that part of the river,
15 future projects to do, whatever this is with rearing boxes
16 or something to that effect. So they will probably come
17 back to you with some discussions if it appears to be this
18 resolution is in conflict with that.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks Vince. I think
21 this was more informational than anything else. Any
22 questions from the Council members. If not, we'll go on to
23 the next item.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Ida already
26 flagged this for you earlier on in the meeting. This is
27 dealing with the Phase III of the Regional Council
28 fisheries training. We've talked quite a bit about adding
29 different items to it. I believe Don's going to cover some
30 of this but we need to get input, what you would like at
31 this fisheries training meeting, and we need guidance on
32 participations of other Regional Councils in your workshop.
33 And then target dates, I apologize for that still being on
34 there, the dates have already been set of -- well, not set
35 but they're tentative of the 22nd through 26th of January.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince.

38

39 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As you
40 can see on the last page under Tab D about the fisheries
41 training, Phase III. We've set the tentative dates as
42 January 22nd through the 26th. That would be where the
43 travel is both on the 22nd and 26th, with three full days
44 of training on the 23rd, 24th and 25th.

45

46 The first day on the 23rd will be the first
47 item there, the review of the draft fisheries studies that
48 we already talked about that was on Page 3 under Tab D.
49 And that is to devote an entire day to the review of the
50 draft subsistence fisheries studies plans for projects to

00112

1 begin in the summer of 2001. The plan will be organized by
2 region and each regional segment will be reviewed by the
3 appropriate Regional Advisory Councils. The RAC members
4 will be asked to review the study plans for their region
5 and provide advice concerning whether the plan addresses
6 key issues and information needs for their region, and
7 these comments then will be submitted to the Federal
8 Subsistence Board.

9
10 The other items on that page come from our
11 Staff, just kind of brainstorming, what we could see as
12 potential topics, including in-season fishing season
13 management, the status of Western Alaska salmon runs,
14 fisheries assessment methods, developing fisheries studies
15 proposals, and the fisheries regulatory process. And as
16 Vince already mentioned, we really value your input as to
17 whether you concur to these topics, if you have other
18 topics and items that you would like to have for training
19 and so as soon as we can we'd like to get your input on
20 that.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Do you have
25 anything else to add?

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Well, this brings up the
28 issue I brought up earlier that maybe Tom Vania or John
29 Burr can address the question of would Fish and Game Staff
30 be available to assist with this training since it is --
31 you guys fish in, both State and Federal waters, you want
32 to know how best to manage those you can improve on your
33 subsistence take compared to this year. So I don't know if
34 they can tell us if there's Staff available. I don't want
35 to put them on the spot but what I'm getting at, is to make
36 this work, there'll need to be coordinated Staff from Fish
37 and Game so we don't -- we don't want our Staff speaking
38 for them during this training session.

39
40 MR. BURR: Mr. Chairman, there's an AYK
41 Board of Fish meeting scheduled for that period of time,
42 and I think that it would be difficult, at this time, to
43 commit to being there for any length of time. It really
44 depends on what issues they're covering at the Board of
45 Fish on those days.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: What meeting's going on at
48 the same time?

49
50 MR. BURR: The AYK Board of Fish meeting

00113

1 will be continuing through the end of January.

2

3 MR. GOODWIN: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Willie.

6

7 MR. GOODWIN: I think this is a case where
8 you can use the protocol that's been signed by the State
9 and Federal government where they will have people
10 available to help us figure things out.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Where would that put us, are
13 we requesting Staff for this training?

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I don't know, do you --
16 yes, I think you do want to have Staff from -- that have
17 the history of the State management process and because of
18 the integration of the State system with the Federal
19 system. So yes I do think you want both there. I'm more
20 of a practical person. I'm looking at calendars and the
21 AYK is up before the Board of Fisheries and their meetings
22 are very intense and take tremendous amount of planning
23 time. So I'm just advising you that there's a scheduling
24 conflict between the Board of Fish and your training.
25 Maybe it isn't, I don't know.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida.

28

29 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
30 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee Member. I think we're
31 getting a little bit ahead of the horse here. All we need
32 to do at this time or all we're asking you to do at this
33 time is to identify the topics that you're interested in
34 receiving training on and then it will be the burden of the
35 Office of Subsistence Management to come across with who
36 would best fill the bill of presenting that information or
37 how it's going to be presented. It's identifying topics
38 that the Council thinks there's a need to address or issues
39 in addition to the ones that they have to address just
40 because of the other burdens on the Council.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have a time frame for
43 a cutoff point for turning in the training subjects? Did
44 you have something Monty?

45

46 MR. MILLARD: Well, just a comment in
47 regards to Vince's comment. Basically we have some of the
48 best AYK people available on our own Staff, Tom Khron,
49 Larry Buckless, Rich Cannon, I think they have a real good
50 background in these particular issues. So if the State

00114

1 themselves can't participate, we have some recent graduates
2 from their academy.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: How much time do we want to
5 spend on this? Go ahead Vince.

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I was just
8 responding to kind of your outline of training that you
9 guys laid out at your last meeting and that made it clear
10 you wanted State and Federal expertise there. The State
11 will just -- we'll have to negotiate with the State to
12 allow former State employees to speak for them.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: If they're our employees now
15 it would force them to speak. Are we looking for subjects
16 at this time?

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we're
19 looking for subjects, looking for, you know, any assistance
20 on those items that Don laid out there. Any other items or
21 anything further on those that are in front of you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: I can't name one offhand,
24 but I guess what I was really going after is ongoing
25 training, ongoing evaluation and ongoing assessment,
26 evaluation-type, and then where we go from there, that's
27 about all I was going to -- and whether we put them on the
28 agenda or not, I think we're going to -- I mean pre-meeting
29 agenda, I think we're going to bring it up in the meeting
30 anyway, so I think we're fairly well covered as far as us
31 trainees are concerned.

32
33 Anything else from the Council. Vince.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: If this training session goes
36 as planned, your past action was that there was a request
37 from Kodiak/Aleutian Islands to participate in discussions
38 on the Yukon River. Your past recommendation was that they
39 would be welcome to send representatives, does that still
40 apply? Would you like them to be involved in your Yukon
41 River and Kuskokwim River training sessions. They said
42 they could provide one or two Regional Council members, I
43 believe, the Kodiak/Aleutians. So that's why that's on the
44 agenda. I believe you still agree with that, I just need a
45 confirmation as we do our planning.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. If you
48 remember, quite a while back they asked to sit in on all
49 our deliberations on the Yukon River salmon and that's the
50 only reason they're on here and I don't have any objections

00115

1 for them to sit in. Because obviously, quite obviously
2 they know that when we discuss Yukon River king salmon,
3 that Area M will be involved and like John from YK Delta
4 always says, you better throw in Shelikoff Strait, too.
5 And that's the reason they're requesting attendance. So I
6 still have no objection to that.

7

8 Don.

9

10 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, as a point of
11 clarification. It's my understanding that all 10 RACs will
12 be at this training.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: So if we don't turn in a
15 specific request so hopefully one of them do turn in one
16 that could be valuable -- request for training.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I'm just confused to
19 the fact that there was a request for the Yukon River and
20 Kuskokwim training, that the program agreed to, and I
21 misinterpret that as there would be a separate session for
22 that training, so I just got clarified on that so that's
23 why I was going on the other -- whatever, all 10 Councils
24 can listen to how the Yukon is laid out then.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right, thank you.

27

28 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida.

31

32 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
33 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee Member. The training
34 that we're talking about began as Phase I with the fly
35 across the rivers with the Federal Subsistence Board and
36 then last year's January training and then we discussed --
37 when we first started discussing Phase III, it was going to
38 be regional training and there was going to be a training
39 for this region and that's why the Aleut Council people
40 wanted to attend, if there was a training, but that has
41 since been modified and that Phase III training is now
42 going to be all Councils are coming into Anchorage.
43 However, as part of your recommendations for the agenda,
44 you can again request caucuses like you did last year when
45 the three Councils caucused and during that time, perhaps
46 that would be a time that the Kodiak Aleutians may want to
47 sit in on a part of that discussion. But they will be
48 caucusing on their own, too.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, again, Ida. And

00116

1 we did have a delegate from the Kodiak Aleutian at our
2 caucus, thank you.

3
4 Angela.

5
6 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 Back to the training. Somewhere in all this training that
8 they're going to be giving us or showing us things, I want
9 a part in there where how are they going to use traditional
10 knowledge when they're making all their decisions. Where
11 does that come out? I don't see it anywhere. Where the
12 people who live in those areas are able to be heard and
13 their words written down so in the future, any time a
14 decision is being made by RACs or by Federal or by State or
15 anyone, those words will be used as back up. Because right
16 now, as it is, we only get the words of the Federal and the
17 State people, we do not hear the words of our own people.
18 And if we have them written or recorded somewhere, we will
19 begin to have traditional knowledge documented. Because a
20 lot of the old people who are telling us things now are
21 going to be gone soon and traditional knowledge is very
22 important in all our decisions.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that a request for this
27 training session or just that it's a suggestion to gather
28 traditional knowledge?

29
30 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: (Nods affirmatively)

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Orville.

33
34 MR. HUNTINGTON: Orville Huntington from
35 Huslia. One thing that I sit on now is the Alaska Native
36 Science Commission and we address Angela's concern and that
37 information. I think there's a lot of traditional knowledge
38 in our web site we're developing. And it's a statewide
39 organization and it's part of my job, as I do that two
40 weeks out of the year, I help them out, the Alaska Native
41 Science Commission. And they'll probably do a report at
42 AFN this year so you'll hear about them when you guys are
43 down there, from Huslia, at AFN.

44
45 We're trying to figure a way to get that
46 information that we share with all our elders back to those
47 communities. Because right now it's in a book that we sent
48 back out to each tribe. You know, all the regions,
49 including Willie's and all over the state, all those elders
50 made comments, you know and some of our scientists out in

00117

1 the villages, and that's going to be the kind of knowledge
2 Angela's after, I think. That's out there and that's
3 available, just for your own information.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I'd like to pick
6 up a little more information from you after the meeting
7 Orville.

8

9 MR. HUNTINGTON: Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Rivard.

12

13 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair, just to point
14 out about the traditional ecological knowledge. On the
15 first page under Tab D, talking about this years program,
16 it does talk about that in that first paragraph under the
17 big heading of Fiscal Year 2000 Program, that there have
18 been studies done on that, on TEK. And also on the
19 training itself, we did think that was a potential topic to
20 talk about. If you look under the last page under Tab D,
21 fisheries assessment methods, it does list traditional
22 ecological knowledge studies as well, just a point of
23 clarification.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Jack.

28

29 MR. REAKOFF: One point that I would like
30 to address during that training session is what role the
31 subsistence program can have in getting a reduction in the
32 chum cap for the Area M fishery. I would like to get into
33 that subject because as these returns decline, I don't
34 think that the Fish Board has been addressing those issues,
35 unless they do that -- or are they going to address those
36 issues at this next meeting for YK? Does that tie to Area
37 M? But if not, I would like to address that issue at that
38 training session.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this in January?

41

42 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Jack. Did
45 you make a note of that, Vince?

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Anything further from
50 the Council members. Questions. We already covered times

00118

1 and dates, right?

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. You're up to updates
4 from the Office of Subsistence Management. The first one
5 is statewide rural determinations.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, who's covering all
8 this?

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: I believe Don is.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Rivard.

13

14 MR. RIVARD: I've become a Jack of All
15 Trades at this meeting, I guess. This is one topic that I
16 am involved in directly in the office, overseeing this.
17 What's happening is that every 10 years under ANILCA, the
18 Federal Board has to review all the rural/non-rural
19 determinations throughout the state. So in order to assist
20 them in this process this year, they've agreed to have a
21 third-party contract to come up with a methodology or one
22 or more methodologies to determine whether communities are
23 rural or non-rural.

24

25 Our current review of rural determination
26 methodology and to recommend a defensible set of criteria
27 and methodologies to support the Board decision-making. In
28 the Board's work session on August 15th, the Board
29 consented to Staff proceeding with developing a request for
30 proposals for contract to identify the best methodology to
31 be used by the Board to support future rural
32 determinations. The Office of Subsistence Management
33 anticipates letting this contract -- here it says by the
34 end of the calendar year 2000, it will probably be a little
35 bit later than that, probably within the first quarter of
36 year 2001, in which the contractor will develop and
37 evaluate one or more methodologies for identifying the
38 characteristics of rural Alaskan communities and criteria
39 to be used -- that may be used to aggregate communities
40 that are integrated economically, socially and are/or
41 communally. Based upon the results obtained, the
42 contractor will recommend the best methodology to be used
43 by the Board to support future rural and non-rural
44 determinations.

45

46 All communities statewide will be reviewed
47 and evaluated based on this new methodology, should it be
48 accepted by the Federal Board. There's a technical
49 evaluation panel that's been formed that's right now in the
50 process of developing the statement of work for this

00119

1 contract and they'll be involved in other aspects of the
2 contract as well.

3
4 As far as the Regional Council
5 participation, there will be -- the Board recognizes that
6 the interest of the Regional Council on this issue and
7 wants to provide an opportunity for selected Council
8 representatives to participate in Board meetings when the
9 topic comes up. The role will be the same as when two
10 Council Chairs participated in Board work sessions on the
11 fisheries implementation advising the Board on specific
12 issues as appropriate. Again, we expect the Council Chairs
13 will identify who will represent the Councils as advisors
14 on this topic.

15
16 The statewide rural determination process
17 will provide for extensive public participation. The RACs
18 will be regularly updated and recommendations of the
19 Councils will be sought on the proposed methodology and the
20 proposed rural determinations over the next two years.
21 Development of a recommended methodology will take
22 approximately one year and applying it to the Alaskan
23 communities will occur during a second year when some of
24 the census data from the Year 2000 census becomes
25 available.

26
27 We anticipate that the final rural
28 determinations will be established sometime during the year
29 2003.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: That concludes your
34 presentation?

35
36 MR. RIVARD: Yes.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, did you have
39 something?

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: No.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Do we go directly
44 into B then?

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. B should
47 be a little bit more lighthearted than all the topics we've
48 covered since lunch. Basically your neighboring Regional
49 Council, through its annual reports, this would be Eastern
50 Interior, requested that the art work on, like this one

00120

1 here, on Fish and Wildlife Regulations and also on
2 Fisheries, but originally they just said wildlife, that
3 there be some kind of contest to get local art work in
4 instead of repeating the same ones. So it was adopted and
5 supported by the program and by the Board. So there is now
6 a subsistence lifestyle art contest for grades K through
7 12. And there's, under Tab E, right towards the back is
8 the handout on it, a pamphlet about it. And it's good --
9 the time line to submit art work is October 27th and once
10 all that is received and sorted through, I believe when the
11 Chairs meet in December -- I don't know, I'm trying to find
12 that real quick here, but when the 10 Chairs meet, they'll
13 be the ones that select the final art work that will be
14 used within various parts of the regulations book. So we
15 wanted just to inform you of that and encourage you to talk
16 youth in your family, youth in your schools and et cetera,
17 to see if they'd like to submit art work.

18
19 This material has been sent to all the
20 schools and other groups. But it's the first year out
21 there and we've gotten some response but it might be good
22 to talk about it when you get back to your villages.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. With the
25 consent of the Council, I'd like to bring Mr. Rivard back
26 to the table and readdress statewide rural determination.
27 We got a couple of questions. Jack.

28
29 MR. REAKOFF: It would seem that they
30 expect that the Council Chairs will identify who will
31 represent the Councils as advisors on this topic. Were you
32 thinking at this time that the Council should identify
33 somebody to represent them?

34
35 MR. RIVARD: I think it's probably going to
36 have to be a teleconference of all the Council Chairs, for
37 them to choose maybe up to two representatives to
38 participate in this, as was pointed out that they did for
39 the fisheries implementation. So it would be up to the
40 Council Chairs to determine among themselves who should be
41 doing that. You could probably nominate your Council Chair
42 to put in his name, I guess, for consideration.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, not prejudging
47 this whole process, but the real affect of the statewide
48 rural determinations would be on those that have road
49 systems and larger urban areas. So I think it will be
50 either through teleconference or different times when the

00121

1 10 Chairs meet to discuss this. But a logical one would be
2 like Eastern Interior, since they have the Tok, Delta
3 Junction road system, plus Fairbanks. But again, Western
4 might have an interest in it. But your communities are
5 generally 500 or less.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Micki.

8
9 MR. STICKMAN: They're talking about rural
10 determinations and I think someone from the Western
11 Interior should be involved in these determinations.

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: When the Chairs get together,
14 Ron can carry that forward on that.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Just for your
17 information under the fish implementation plan we named two
18 coastal Council Chairs at that time and they named me as an
19 alternate. We've straightened that out to where I was a
20 full-fledged member instead of an alternate now. And
21 that's where we stand under that fisheries implementation
22 part. I think we'll be handling it just about the same way,
23 don't you expect the same thing -- or expect the same
24 people, Willie?

25
26 MR. GOODWIN: (Nods affirmatively)

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Rivard.

29
30 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, if I may add on
31 this statewide rural determinations contract, we anticipate
32 that the contract will be awarded to an academic or other
33 professional organization with appropriate expertise in
34 rural, sociology or economics. I meant to add that. Thank
35 you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, do we have any more
38 questions -- Ida.

39
40 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
41 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee Member. In regard to
42 Micki's comment, I just wanted to assure the Council that,
43 although it will be Council Chairs that sat with this group
44 in reviewing the materials, when the discussion of the
45 communities of this region were raised or the decisions
46 were made, it would come back before the full Council and
47 there'd be full Council participation.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, again, Ida.

50

00122

1 MR. STICKMAN: Thank you, Ida.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Don.

4
5 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is
6 giving the Council an update on our Staffing -- Federal
7 Staffing to implement the Federal Subsistence Fisheries
8 Management Program. As you can see on the last page under
9 Tab E, we actually have an update on that.

10
11 Fish and Wildlife Service, the Office of
12 Subsistence Management, we've just in the last week, hired
13 three more people so instead of nine we now have 12 that
14 we've hired to-date. We plan to hire another three so the
15 total stays the same at 15. That would change some of the
16 other totals of -- the total hire to-date is 24 and we plan
17 to hire another 19 for a total of 43. From this total we
18 have hired at least 21 Alaskans, including seven former
19 State fisheries managers or researchers that have really
20 provided us with some great expertise, especially on the
21 Yukon River.

22
23 As previously mentioned under a
24 presentation I gave, local hires associated with projects
25 conducted through cooperative agreements by Native and
26 other organizations as part of the resource monitoring
27 effort resulted in hiring 69 Alaska Native rural residents
28 to work on the project out of a total of 83 local hires.
29 And as part of the resource monitoring effort, we plan to
30 contract out nine technical positions to Native and other
31 regional rural organizations. These positions will enhance
32 local capability to oversee monitoring projects and
33 participate in the Federal Subsistence Program.

34
35 The BIA is currently recruiting for a
36 Native Liaison position to work closely with the Federal
37 Subsistence Board and the Alaska Native organizations.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Don. Any
42 questions for Don. Willie.

43
44 MR. GOODWIN: Mr. Chairman, of those 43
45 positions, how many are Native?

46
47 MR. RIVARD: The 43 in our office?

48
49 MR. GOODWIN: Yeah.

50

00123

1 MR. RIVARD: I'd have to do a little math
2 here.

3
4 MR. GOODWIN: Probably none.

5
6 MR. RIVARD: Pardon.

7
8 MR. GOODWIN: Probably none.

9
10 MR. RIVARD: Oh, no, that's not true.
11 We've got many of our Regional Council coordinators are
12 Native Alaskans. So Vince, can you help me out on that, do
13 you have some sense on that?

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Well,
16 Donald is one of those hired.

17
18 MR. GOODWIN: He's supposed to be anyway.

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: What now?

21
22 MR. GOODWIN: He's supposed to be anyway.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, okay. I mean there's one
25 example there. I don't have a breakdown of.....

26
27 MR. GOODWIN: No, I was asking about is
28 these new positions, you know, Donald is filling an old
29 position.

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: No, he's not filling an old
32 position. They couldn't split me in half so they hired
33 another person. And I do have a letter on that, later on,
34 at the end of the meeting, I'll be sharing with the full
35 Council. But basically, no, there was no position before.
36 I was in charge of working with Eastern and Western
37 Interior, the decision was made that I would no longer work
38 with Eastern so they hired Donald who's an Alaska Native.

39
40 MR. GOODWIN: That's one.

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: But I can't speak for the
43 other ones because I don't even -- to be honest, the
44 program is evolving so quickly that when I call down to
45 Anchorage I get a new person that I never met before. So I
46 have no knowledge of the hires because it's happening so
47 rapidly at this point even though it was slow in the
48 beginning that I don't know the backgrounds of the
49 different people.

50

00124

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.
2 Comments. If not, thank you, Don.

3
4 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chairman.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: We'll take a five minute
7 break and start in five minutes.

8
9 (Off record)

10
11 (On record)

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: We'll reconvene the meeting.
14 It is now 4:25, I'd like to call the meeting back to order.
15 The next item on the agenda Subsistence Wildlife issues,
16 Item XI, under A we have the update on the Koyukuk moose
17 management. Who's covering this one Vince?

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the Alaska
20 Department of Fish and Game will be discussing that and
21 Orville's here to represent the Koyukuk National Wildlife
22 Refuge, so there'll be those staff here and others from
23 Fish and Game.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, update on the Koyukuk
26 River Moose Management Plan. Randy Rogers.

27
28 MR. ROGERS: Thank you, Chairman Sam,
29 members of the Council. I'm happy to be back here again to
30 provide another update on the Koyukuk River moose
31 management planning project. This time it's nice to be
32 able to report back to you on actual places that have taken
33 place in the Koyukuk moose hunt rather than just some of
34 the plans and proposals we've been working on for so long.

35
36 I'm also glad that the meeting could be
37 here in Nulato so we can hear what local residents have to
38 say. Yesterday we got to hear what folks at the Middle
39 Yukon Advisory Committee had to say and, of course, we want
40 to hear what different members of the Council have to say
41 about this years season.

42
43 I know most of all members of the Council
44 and others are really anxious to hear the actual numbers of
45 hunters and harvest levels from the Koyukuk River this
46 fall. But for that I'm going to defer to Glenn Stout, he
47 was the one that was at Ella's Cabin check station and
48 he'll present those numbers in a few minutes. He'll have
49 the best summary available in the few days, basically, he
50 had between closing down the check station and then getting

00125

1 back to the office and preparing for this meeting. I'm
2 going to just give a brief update of a few of the major
3 events that have taken place since the last Council meeting
4 last winter.

5
6 Hopefully all of you folks have received
7 the Koyukuk River Moose management planning update we
8 mailed out in May. That detailed some of the changes
9 adopted by the Board of Game and Federal Subsistence Board.
10 Last March the Board of Game adopted the recommendations of
11 the Koyukuk River Moose Hunter's Working Group with just a
12 few minor amendments. Most significantly, the Board
13 established a drawing for the general hunt and authorized
14 the Department to issue up to 400 permits. The Board
15 decided to retain the 50-inch or four brow-tine antler
16 restriction for non-resident hunters and to further reduce
17 crowding on the river, the general drawing hunt was split
18 into two 10 day seasons and hunters were required to return
19 through the check station within 48 hours of the end of
20 their hunt period.

21
22 For the subsistence hunt in the Koyukuk
23 controlled use area, the Board established a policy of
24 requiring hunters to cut antlers through the palm at the
25 kill site to destroy the trophy value and for the head to
26 be salvaged with the meat all the way to the final point of
27 processing. The provision on cutting the palm, the antlers
28 through the palm was worked out at the Board of Game
29 meeting and was accomplished with the input of Gabe Sam
30 from Tanana Chiefs.

31
32 The Board elected to allow antlerless moose
33 harvest the first five days of the season in the Koyukuk
34 controlled use area and the last five days of the season in
35 the remainder of Unit 24. That was an issue that hadn't
36 been completely resolved in the working group itself.

37
38 The Board of Game deferred the proposals to
39 establish a moose hunter check station in Huslia but asked
40 the Department to report back on the matter at the next
41 Interior Alaska Board Meeting.

42
43 Following the Board of Game, in early May,
44 I made a presentation to the Federal Subsistence Board on
45 the draft Koyukuk River Moose Management Plan. The plan
46 was well received by the Federal Board and they adopted,
47 passed all the proposals from this Council which were
48 designed to align the State and Federal seasons out there.

49
50 While the Board of Game authorized the

00126

1 Department to issue up to 400 drawing permits for the
2 general hunt in the Koyukuk controlled use area, based on
3 the most recent moose population estimate only 250 permits
4 were made available by the Department. I would also like
5 to note that the application period for the Koyukuk general
6 hunt has shifted and for the 2001 season, applications will
7 be due November 1 through December 6. Applicants will be
8 notified the results in January, but that's a significant
9 change. So people in the rural communities that do want to
10 apply for the general hunt need to be aware of that
11 different application period. Based on the recommendation
12 of the Koyukuk River Moose Hunter's Working Group, non-
13 residents were allocated 20 percent of the general permits
14 or 52 permits this year. That compares to 173 general
15 permits that were issued to non-residents in 1999 within
16 only the portion of the Koyukuk controlled use area
17 downstream from Huslia. So we're looking at somewhere on
18 the order of 25 percent of the non-resident hunt level for
19 the entire area. This reduction in non-resident hunters
20 will hopefully cut down on hunting pressure and the illegal
21 guiding and transporting while still allowing some resident
22 and guiding opportunity -- I mean non-resident and guiding
23 opportunity.

24
25 As you were all aware, throughout the
26 summer and especially as the hunting season was drawing
27 near, concern was expressed about the possibility of large
28 numbers of Alaska residents choosing to participate in the
29 subsistence registration hunt. The Department prepared for
30 this possibility by drafting an emergency order to close
31 the season if the maximum allowable harvest was close to
32 being reached. Glenn had that prepared, ready to go before
33 he ever left down to Ella's Cabin check station.

34
35 In August the Koyukuk River tribal task
36 force on moose management filed a special action request
37 with the Federal Subsistence due to their concerns about
38 the possibility of excessive harvest of moose in Unit 21(D)
39 within the Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge. Glenn Stout,
40 myself, and others provided Ron Sam and other members of
41 the Western Interior Council and Office of Subsistence
42 Management Staff information to clarify how the hunt would
43 be managed to ensure that over harvest would not occur.
44 This included how we determined the permit numbers and the
45 fact that we had the emergency order ready to go.
46 Fortunately, a greater than expected number of Alaska
47 residents did not participate in the Koyukuk controlled use
48 area subsistence registration hunt. The number of hunters
49 and the total harvest of moose was lower than the last few
50 years and it did not become necessary to issue the

00127

1 emergency order.

2

3 I'm hopeful that the Koyukuk moose hunting
4 regulations that came about through the efforts of the
5 Koyukuk River Moose Hunters' Working Group are working out
6 as the group intended and have improved the Koyukuk River
7 moose hunting situation for all involved. Still, as you're
8 hopefully aware, the public comment period is open on the
9 draft plan and will stay open to November 1. Following
10 that time and following Glenn getting a chance to conduct
11 the moose surveys again, we intend to hold another meeting
12 of the working group to discuss how the draft plan worked,
13 consider what changes, if any, might be needed. The
14 comments or suggestions of the Western Interior Council or
15 individual members will be most appreciated.

16

17 One thing that I do want to point out and
18 voice a little concern is that we're getting some ideas for
19 changes that might be necessary to the plan to improve it,
20 there may be a few loopholes there. I've got my own list
21 of things I think stand to be improved in the plan before
22 we call it a final. But I would like to urge that as we
23 consider these changes, we do them through the consensus
24 process that got to the unanimous adoption of changed
25 regulations by both the Board of Game and the Federal
26 Subsistence Board and that we want to be careful that we
27 bring along, in a cooperative effort, all the users that
28 were involved in this, keeping in mind that it was the
29 cooperation of all the users that enabled the success that
30 we've had so far.

31

32 Just one note, in regard to the resolutions
33 that were passed by this Council urging continuation of the
34 working group, the Commissioner did respond in a letter
35 that's in your notebooks here, but as Vince pointed out in
36 his little memo, the letter from the Commissioner was
37 appreciative of the Council's resolution but was very non-
38 committal as far as continuing the working group. When the
39 working group was first started, it was actually some of
40 the local residents, including the Middle Yukon Advisory
41 Committee, were fairly adamant that this would not be a
42 permanent board and there was concern it would usurped the
43 normal role of the advisory committees and councils. Maybe
44 some of the views have changed on it since we've gone
45 through the whole process but at this point in time what
46 we're thinking of is we will keep the committee organized
47 and running as long as we see a need for it. We do see the
48 need to reevaluate the plan following this hunting season,
49 the experience we've gained there. Depending on what comes
50 from that meeting, we may need further meetings yet this

00128

1 winter. It may also be reasonable to expect that even if
2 we don't need continued meetings this winter, beyond the
3 one that we already have in mind, that maybe we should have
4 an annual evaluation of the plan. If things were improved
5 this year, there's some factors out there that could change
6 and we all need to watch very carefully to make sure that
7 we're staying within the management guidelines that was
8 intended by the working group and agreed upon by all the
9 different users involved.

10
11 Also when we consider keeping a group like
12 the Koyukuk Moose Hunter Working Group going, as much as I
13 would like to see that group keep going on a regular basis,
14 we need to keep in mind that there's other places where
15 planning efforts are needed and this organization has
16 indicated support for addressing moose management issues in
17 the GASH area. There's a lot of concern about moose
18 management in Yukon Flats. So we'll need to consider how
19 we allocate planning resources. But I do want to make sure
20 you understand that the Department and myself, my bosses,
21 really appreciate and value the input of this Council in
22 where we apply our planning efforts.

23
24 So that's just a short rundown of a few
25 points I wanted to mention and I want to turn it over to
26 Glenn to give you some of the numbers. Of course, I'll
27 stick around to provide any questions on the planning
28 process that you may have but I suspect everybody's really
29 kind of itchy to hear what actually happened this year.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Randy. Any
34 questions for Randy at this time or do you want to wait?
35 Okay. Glenn.

36
37 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Glenn
38 Stout with the Department of Fish and Game in Galena. I'll
39 just get right to the numbers as far as the Koyukuk hunt
40 this year, where we sat. All the numbers that I have here
41 are still preliminary until we get all our harvest report
42 forms returned back. We made an estimate, particularly in
43 Huslia and Hughes, how many hunters and number of moose
44 that were harvested up there. They have a couple licensed
45 vendors up there that helped us out so those numbers are
46 preliminary as well.

47
48 At Ella's Cabin, we had 415 hunters check
49 through there at the check station. Of the 415 hunters
50 that checked through, we checked out 223 moose. That

00129

1 actually does include a small number of moose that were
2 harvested outside the controlled use area, for instance, up
3 on the Kateel River outside the controlled use area and
4 some outside the controlled use area on the Huslia River,
5 but pretty minimal. We estimated that there's
6 approximately 40 moose harvested that went through Huslia
7 and 10 to 15 moose harvested out of Hughes. So our end of
8 the season estimate is approximately 278 moose and this was
9 down substantially from what we had last year. Last year
10 we harvested 368 moose out of the controlled use area was
11 our estimate. And that gives us about -- we're sitting
12 about 90 fewer moose were harvested this year than what we
13 had last year.

14
15 In relation to what our moose management
16 plan had proposed there based on the pre-season population
17 estimate, we had a maximum sustainable harvest rate of 418
18 moose. From that 418 moose, when we wrote up our emergency
19 order plan that we had hoped we wouldn't have to implement,
20 that 418 was based on a seven and a half percent harvest
21 rate. We estimated approximately 50 moose are usually
22 harvested in the winter season so we wanted to make sure
23 and reserve those for the winter seasons that we have later
24 on in the regulator year. So that gave us 368 moose cap
25 that we were looking at. And that coincidentally is right
26 about where we were also last year. But we were well short
27 of that number so we were pretty happy with the way it
28 went.

29
30 Now, one of the major changes that we did
31 do also was we shortened the cow harvest in the subsistence
32 season to where there was only the first five days of the
33 season was available for cow harvest. And we eliminated
34 the cow harvest opportunity in the drawing hunt, the old
35 general permit hunt. Our harvest of cows went from 96 last
36 year down to 11 this year. So I think that's really given
37 us to work for as far as recruitment in the future and
38 we're pretty happy about that aspect of the hunt as well.

39
40 As far as the breakdown on that, I don't
41 know the harvest success rates for each one of the permits
42 yet. I do know of the 415 hunters that went in, 262 were
43 on the registration subsistence hunt, and that compares to
44 last year we had 356 people came through. So even the
45 subsistence -- numbers of subsistence hunters had declined
46 and I don't know what the breakdown on locals versus non-
47 locals is but we did see quite a reduction in that as well.

48
49 Just kind of a few observations I made at
50 the check station this year, it seemed to be a lot of

00130

1 people were pretty happy about it, both locally and non-
2 locally. And I think the idea of putting another five days
3 forward on the subsistence season really helped subsistence
4 hunters get out there without any competition from the
5 general hunt people and so I thought that was a very
6 beneficial aspect of it. Everybody seemed to comment that
7 the people were spread out well, and liked the idea of not
8 having that starting line -- start there at the beginning
9 of the season on the general hunt, we didn't have a big
10 rush of boats going up the river all at once. Having that
11 general season split seemed to really distribute the
12 hunters well and I think that was a real positive aspect of
13 the hunt as well.

14
15 There was a question yesterday, too, as far
16 as predator harvest by our hunters that were up there.
17 They did harvest 41 black bears, 10 wolves and two grizzly
18 bears during the hunt that we recorded. And that, too, is
19 preliminary. I think we'll probably end up with a few more
20 reported as the season goes on.

21
22 So that's basically it for the numbers that
23 we have.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Glenn. Any
26 questions for Glenn. Go ahead Jack and then Willie.

27
28 MR. REAKOFF: Did you identify any problems
29 with that hunt biologically? I mean have you identified
30 any issues that you may be bringing before the planning
31 group?

32
33 MR. STOUT: A few concerns but I think it
34 may just take more time. I'm pretty reluctant, like Randy
35 said, to really start suggesting major changes immediately
36 until we give time for the plan to kind of go through at
37 least a couple seasons. The one thing that I recognize
38 that was a concern was the number of hunters that tried to
39 hunt the line on the Kateel River there where the Koyukuk
40 controlled use area boundary and we had an awful lot of
41 hunters trying to hunt outside the controlled use area,
42 just outside the boundary. And my feeling is is that there
43 was too many hunters in there and I think they probably are
44 overharvesting in that small area, they're shooting a lot
45 of moose. I'm concerned about it, but it may take care of
46 itself, you know, over the long run. I don't think such a
47 small area that it's going to have an impact on the
48 population. But I think what's going to happen is
49 probably, if it's always crowded and people can't find the
50 moose that they want, I think they're just going to go

00131

1 somewhere else.

2

3

4 I also heard, talking with Orville, that
5 that was taking place just outside the controlled use area
6 on the Huslia River as well, and I think they have similar
7 concerns. That's a little bit different because on the
8 Kateel, access is pretty limited and in some years you're
9 going to be able to get up there. It seems like there's
10 only a few people that really know the river well enough to
11 get very far up into the Kateel River. The Huslia River
12 may be another matter, they may be able to do that,
13 logistics are tough up on the Huslia River, though, so I
14 think that may be limited.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Willie.

16

17

18 MR. GOODWIN: Thank you, MR. Chairman.
19 Just some observations from our part, from Northwest
20 Alaska, especially around Selawik. First I got to
21 congratulate you on your work that you've done here for
22 that management plan, it seems to be working, especially
23 for the local people and I'm sure this topic was discussed
24 when you were doing the plan, is the displacement of the
25 other hunters that didn't get the permits. We've seen an
26 increase in hunters in the Selawik Refuge, in fact, two new
27 outfitters were permitted and while we don't have the
28 numbers of how many clients went out, that will be part of
29 the requirement to report to us, we aren't working on a
30 moose management plan but we are working at the problem at
31 a different angle, using the different Federal agencies in
32 the whole unit, Unit 23.

32

33

34 The Fish and Wildlife Service has written
35 us saying that they want to work on the regulatory process
36 on the issuance of these permits for the transporters and
37 the number of clients they bring in. BLM is going to re-
38 look at it's Northwest area plan for their lands and begin
39 a process to issue permits also for hunting on BLM lands.
40 And also the Park Service is waiting on the Thomas Bill,
41 which will authorize them to limit the number of permits to
42 the transporters and guides and also the clients they bring
43 in.

43

44

45 So it may take us a couple of years but we
46 hope we'll have something in place also because we have a
47 two-fold problem up there. When they go up and hunt they
48 can get both caribou and moose in our area so there's a big
49 influx of people and I was just telling some of these guys
50 here, last year, Alaska Airlines couldn't fly out all the
51 horns so they had to charter a DC-6 to Kotzebue to come and

00132

1 get all the horns that were going out. And I'll get into
2 the wanton waste here when we get to it.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, for the public's
5 information, I had asked -- I did anticipate some problems
6 with implementing this plan and I knew that Northwest was
7 working on the transporter issue and it will be discussed a
8 little later and that's pretty much why I invited Willie
9 down here, to address that issue and try to use some of
10 their expertise.

11
12 Thank you, Willie. Any further questions
13 for Glenn. Yeah, go ahead, Glenn.

14
15 MR. STOUT: I will add a little bit to that
16 as far as Willie's concerns. We were watching pretty
17 carefully what other kind of harvest took place throughout
18 21(B), 24, over on 21(C) on the Nowitna and then 21(B) on
19 the Melosie. And on the Nowitna, there didn't seem like
20 there was any change at all. We didn't realize any change
21 in the number of hunters or the harvest of moose. The Fish
22 and Wildlife Service and Orville will probably update you
23 on that. Did do some flights over the Kaiyuh. I know
24 Trooper Gibbons did there as well. I talked with Trooper
25 Bettingfield, out of Coldfoot, and he was working with
26 Brett's task force, which he'll probably -- it'd be
27 worthwhile to have him speak to some of the law enforcement
28 issues that came up this year on the Koyukuk as well. They
29 also had law enforcement up on the Melosie this year. And
30 talking with Trooper Bettingfield, it sounded pretty
31 typical, the harvest on the Melosie, didn't seem to have a
32 big influx there. There may have been some new hunters way
33 up on the upper stretches of the Koyukuk. Kurt said that
34 there was quite a few boats sitting down there along the
35 Jim or the Southfork River that were putting in there. So
36 maybe a few more did put in up there. But it sounded like
37 success rate was pretty low up in that country and may have
38 shortened the effort for some of those hunters up there who
39 ended up kind of shortening their season up there.

40
41 But we really didn't see in our area, in
42 the Galena management area, a big increase in the number of
43 hunters. So I think that maybe they did maybe go somewhere
44 else.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thank you, Glenn. For
47 your information and Randy's too, we've been hearing quite
48 a bit about more hunters out of the Bettles area, upper
49 Koyukuk, and I'd like to go through that plan again because
50 I know we addressed that issue when we worked on the five

00133

1 year plan, that we were going to displace the hunters and
2 send them someplace else. We know now that they're up in
3 the Selawik and quite a few more up in the upper Koyukuk.
4 I think we really have to meet again and try to work that
5 plan into upper Koyukuk area, too, to put more restrictions
6 in that area.

7
8 We do have one heck of a transporter
9 problem up there. We have two to three airlines and two of
10 them pretty much completely dropped or almost dropped
11 Allakaket off their normal stops, from 12, 14 times a week
12 to five. So that transporter issue has to be discussed and
13 looked at seriously when we reconvene the working group.
14 Because I don't think we can do it without your help.

15
16 Any -- Jack.

17
18 MR. REAKOFF: I kind of wonder where those
19 hunters were displaced to, because I was told by people
20 going by the Yukon River bridge that there were 200
21 vehicles with trailers parked there and it looked like a
22 "Seekins Ford Parking Lot." Where those boats when on the
23 Yukon River, I'm kind of wondering where they went if they
24 didn't end up up the Novi or Koyukuk, I'm kind of wondering
25 if they were in the Innoko or where they went to. Because,
26 you know, they're going to go down the Yukon some place.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Any more
29 further questions for Glenn -- Benedict.

30
31 MR. JONES: I was talking to people from
32 Kaltag and they said there was -- like Jack asked where
33 there -- those boats went, and I was talking to some of the
34 people in Kaltag and they said there was more hunters in
35 their area because the drawing permit in the Koyukuk River,
36 so they went elsewhere so that's where they went, up and
37 down the Yukon River.

38
39 MR. GOODWIN: Mr. Chairman.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Willie.

42
43 MR. GOODWIN: One other issue that I want
44 to make you aware of, as we begin to work on the permit
45 process, one other issue that we're going to talk about is
46 the migration route for the caribou and where these permits
47 can be issued. So I'll be communicating with you and I'll
48 need some help on where they migrate through to your area,
49 which direction they come from, from the Selawik or the
50 Kobuk, so that we don't inadvertently issue permits where

00134

1 we'll effect the caribou migration here.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Willie. We do
4 have the Northwest Arctic Caribou Herd on the agenda at
5 some point, don't we Vince?

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: (Nods affirmatively)

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Because it came up at the
10 Middle Yukon meeting.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, John Trent is going to
13 come in tomorrow but I think it should be noted his request
14 in light of this discussion. John Trent was mainly going
15 to talk about the working group and additional members --
16 not additional, filling seats on that working group.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further
19 questions for Glenn or Randy at this time. Gabe Sam,
20 Tanana Chief.

21

22 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair, Gabe Sam. I almost
23 feel like I was a Board member here. Glenn, you know,
24 after I looked at your complete analysis of all this, you
25 know, from the get go, as you know and Randy knows, I was
26 pretty critical of the plan -- you know, of the Native
27 organization involvement and stuff, but after further
28 seeing how it was working out on the Koyukuk River, you
29 know, there's definitely some room for improvement but it's
30 a definite improvement of what was going on there in the
31 beginning, you know.

32

33 For example, I went up there and hunted
34 myself. I probably could have brought the antlers back to
35 Fairbanks, intact, but, you know, I was really pushing for
36 this cutting through the palm and, you know, it would seem
37 kind of stupid if I didn't do that and brought it back to
38 Fairbanks, but I was tempted to do that because there was
39 nobody to check whether I was going to do it anyway. And I
40 went around the community, you know, and there was a lot of
41 hunters still coming in and out of Huslia. And when you
42 were giving the report that there was 40 hunters in the
43 subsistence hunt, you know, from Huslia, it seemed a bit
44 low to me. But I'd have to check up on that.

45

46 There's some discussion that there's
47 hunters being dropped off outside the controlled use area,
48 you know, there was some proposals to the Board of Game to
49 close off those controlled use areas and, you know, make it
50 all one controlled use area. Do you think that's still

00135

1 possible? I mean for the next cycle to the Board of Game.

2

3 MR. STOUT: Through the Chair, Gabe, first
4 of all that 40 moose was the number of moose was our
5 harvest estimate. I talked to Mabel and she says there was
6 81 people that she registered out of Huslia and then there
7 was 15 of the drawing permit hunters. So that 40 moose was
8 my estimate on the number of moose harvested there in
9 Huslia. So that, just to make sure that I state that
10 correctly.

11

12 MR. G. SAM: Okay. Mr. Chair, how many of
13 those grey harvest tickets did you drop off in Huslia?

14

15 MR. STOUT: I gave her 75 initially and she
16 used all those up and then Brett was up there at a meeting
17 that they had and she says that they used them all up and
18 she needed some more and I sent up an additional 25 more.
19 And virtually all of those people were people in Huslia.
20 And I will say this, too, that we just had a banner year
21 for people signing up on harvest tickets there in Huslia
22 and I think it just shows a real good commitment by the
23 people in Huslia to get on board with this just like you're
24 saying, Gabe. So I was real happy with the number of
25 people that signed up there.

26

27 MR. G. SAM: Because I signed up but I
28 didn't -- they didn't have any grey tickets there so I used
29 a green one and she wrote down there that it was a
30 registration subsistence hunt.

31

32 MR. STOUT: Right. And I am aware that we
33 ran out there for a period of time and we ended up getting
34 some more up there. It just really exceeded what we had
35 every done before. We were really surprised by the number
36 -- the most that we had had signed up there before was 30
37 and so I thought I was doing well to send up 75, and so it
38 really just exceeded our expectation.

39

40 MR. G. SAM: Well, I just wanted to say for
41 a closing, I thought you guys did a good job, you know. I
42 think there is definite room for, you know, little touches
43 here and there and we'll probably be staying in closer
44 contact with Mr. Rogers there.

45

46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Gabe. I
49 appreciate your comment. Go ahead, Benedict.

50

00136

1 MR. JONES: Yeah, Mr. Chair. To answer
2 Gabe's question about I know I was at the Board meeting in
3 March and one of their recommendations was that the hunter
4 came out of the Koyukuk controlled use area, if they were
5 dropped off in the lake out of the controlled use area, one
6 of the recommendations, that they could not enter into
7 Koyukuk River with their raft, they have to be taken out
8 from the lake again, but they can't drift down river
9 somewhere or Huslia River, something like that with a raft.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. Jack
14 Colthese.

15
16 MR. HOLCHESE: Yes, my name is Jack.
17 Referring to Gabe's question about that proposal that was
18 brought up, we brought it up again yesterday and I'm sure
19 we're going to bring it up again today, but I just hope
20 something is going to be done about it. And referring to
21 Benedict, about people being dropped out in the lake,
22 that's something that we want, that controlled use area to
23 be enforced, and we want to extend it. Because they drop
24 them off and they don't bring all their equipment back out.
25 People have to go back up with boats and pick them up. And
26 if they don't do that they'll just leave their equipment
27 out there. So that's how come we want to extend it to
28 where it will make it harder for them and easier for our
29 people.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Willie
34 Goodwin and then Darryl Vent.

35
36 MR. GOODWIN: Mr. Chairman, one other issue
37 that we're going to talk about and I am not sure if it's in
38 your moose management plan or anything, is the issue of
39 meat care. We're going to talk about it and see if we
40 can't put it in the permit requirement, that the meat is
41 handled properly.

42
43 Because I had an experience this summer
44 where one of the transporters called me because he had seen
45 my dogs by the lagoon, you know, where I keep them and he
46 asked me if I wanted some meat that was not fit for human
47 consumption and I said, yeah, and so I went out and got it
48 from where he keeps his airplanes. And I had to go back
49 twice with my truck. I mean that was a lot of meat, a lot.
50 In any case, when I started putting it where I could handle

00137

1 it better later, some of that meat was not intended for
2 human consumption anyway. They were just following the law
3 that all they have to do is bring it out from the field.
4 And I'm not saying that all the transporters are doing this
5 or guides but that abuse is happening. I mean man there
6 was hair and blood and parts of the guts in them and, you
7 know, in that meat. So we're going to address that problem
8 in the permitting process we're talking about.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, we have pending
11 legislation on wanton waste on the agenda as soon as we get
12 done with this testimony. But at this time I'll recognize
13 Darryl Vent and then Mike Walleri.

14
15 MR. VENT: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
16 One of the concerns from the villages that was brought to
17 my attention was on the moose horn, we'll cut the moose
18 horn in half on the palm. You know, some of our people
19 that live in the village, we can't make, you know, quite a
20 bit of money like these big boats where they travel with a
21 whole bunch of fuel, and when we went and sell the horn,
22 they started complaining because it's 5.50 a pound for the
23 whole moose palm but then you sell the other part it's only
24 \$2 a pound for it. So they really cut us back and that but
25 they're making a bigger profit and we're not, you know,
26 getting the most for -- you know, try to get our fuel for --
27 you know, pay back for our fuel for hunting moose, and
28 it's getting harder and harder to hunt these moose so you
29 have to go out many more times than just one time and catch
30 a moose and go back in.

31
32 So everything is kind of working against
33 our people in the village. So you know we have to try to
34 maybe resolve this somehow. We're making somebody rich,
35 but it's not our people, you know. We're not trying to get
36 rich off it, we're just trying to buy our fuel back which
37 the price of fuel went up in Huslia this fall so it kind of
38 hit us hard both ways, and this was just one of the
39 problems that was brought to my attention.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Darryl. Mike did
44 you have your hand up?

45
46 MR. WALLERI: I just had a couple of
47 questions about the numbers. The numbers seem to suggest a
48 sharp decline in subsistence harvest in the area because
49 historically the Subsistence Division has estimated that
50 there is a 208 moose are harvested by the residents of the

00138

1 area. And apparently the report is that there are 262
2 registered subsistence users in the area which would mean
3 that somewhere around -- that would result somewhere close
4 to 170 moose. And I noticed that when you were talking
5 about the information on the registration of, you know,
6 whether or not these 262 people were -- you didn't have
7 information on whether or not they're local or non-local.
8 Has there been any adjustment to this -- preliminary
9 adjustment to these numbers to reflect whether or not there
10 has been a normal subsistence harvest by the people in the
11 villages?

12
13 MR. STOUT: Through the Chair, Mr. Walleri,
14 I haven't made any adjustment on these numbers. These are
15 just the raw figures.

16
17 MR. WALLERI: Okay.

18
19 MR. STOUT: But probably the low number
20 that you're seeing is because we haven't got subsistence
21 harvest through the rest of this winter which the
22 subsistence information that we have usually is the year-
23 round harvest information. And so we've got quite a bit of
24 this regulatory year to go yet to accumulate more
25 subsistence harvest.

26
27 MR. WALLERI: I guess the other question I
28 have and maybe it's more observation, but is there some
29 kind of monitoring system in place? I understand that
30 there's been an extension of this rural subsistence hunt in
31 the area and so there's suggestion that there will be a
32 greater harvest than the historical 208 for subsistence, is
33 there a methodology being developed to monitor, to try and
34 get some kind of accurate assessment other than the
35 Subsistence Division?

36
37 MR. STOUT: Through the Chair, Mr. Walleri,
38 first of all the season, the additional season opener is
39 not within the controlled use area information that we're
40 talking about. A lot of discussion on that Zone 2 part of
41 the plan is really where this data is coming from. The
42 additional season that was opened up was up on the Kanuti
43 controlled use area which is well upriver from this high
44 density area that we focused a lot of our attention on and
45 which all this data that I'm referring to now comes from.

46
47 We do have, like we always have, in
48 addition to the subsistence door-to-door surveys, we have
49 our statewide monitoring system, reporting system. And
50 that still holds. People that didn't have their moose are

00139

1 still required, by law, to go ahead and do that, fill out
2 their report tickets just like they always have for that
3 additional hunt. They'd be required to do that regardless.
4 We are still going to be continuing that as far as I know,
5 the door-to-door survey as well.

6
7 MR. WALLERI: Just one last question.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Mike, one more.

10
11 MR. WALLERI: And I guess the last
12 question, is there going to be some kind of effort to try
13 and figure out -- because this has been a constant problem
14 trying to figure out the harvest levels and have a check
15 against with what the Subsistence Division comes out with.
16 Because the Subsistence Division seems to come out with a
17 very high -- very accurate estimate of what the local use
18 is but they have no method for determining what the non-
19 local subsistence harvest is. Is there going to be some
20 effort to try and sort out, in terms of the registered
21 subsistence harvest users, how much -- how many of these
22 registered subsistence users were local as opposed to non-
23 local, to check and verify against the Subsistence Division
24 reports?

25
26 MR. STOUT: Mr. Walleri, through the Chair,
27 the non-local reporting rate has always been higher. We've
28 always been able to get that information reflected more
29 accurately because non-locals have relatively few options
30 for entering into the controlled use area on this
31 subsistence information. And by and part, the vast
32 majority of them always came right by the cabin so we were
33 getting that information there. There was the concern
34 about up on the Huslia River side, that maybe they were
35 coming up through there. But what we know, by spot checks,
36 by law enforcement up there, is that these people have
37 invested a lot of energy and money into coming up in there
38 and typically they're very concerned about following
39 through and making sure they have their harvest ticket
40 information with them. They've got to have that harvest
41 permit with them in hand when they get there because if
42 they get checked, they're hunting in a closed -- they don't
43 have a permit to hunt that area basically.

44
45 And so we have their information when they
46 get a harvest ticket, they have to fill out the card right
47 there when they get a harvest ticket at the Fish and Game
48 office or a vendor, so we have their number on a database
49 right away. They report that information, either
50 immediately after they get back home or throughout the year

00140

1 like most people here have probably seen, getting notices,
2 several letters if that report information has not been
3 sent in. So we keep contacting those people and we've had
4 very high reporting success amongst the non-locals.

5
6 MR. WALLERI: Okay.

7
8 MR. STOUT: One of the problems that we had
9 in the future - that we're working on a lot right now, that
10 is trying to get new vendors out in the villages. IT's
11 been pretty tough because there's a lot of paperwork
12 involved in doing your annual budget, making sure all that
13 information. I was real fortunate, I got a new license
14 vendor there in Hughes and we had a lot of good reporting
15 there in Hughes. And then the reporting up in Huslia was
16 really tremendous this year as well. And so I think we're
17 making some really good strides in that effort.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mike, Glenn. Do
20 we have anymore questions from the Council. Are we looking
21 for any improvements at this time to the plan?

22
23 MR. ROGERS: As I mentioned before, the
24 Department is intending to hold another meeting of the
25 working group and others who are concerned about Koyukuk
26 moose management, hopefully that will be the first week of
27 December. We'd like, you know, all the input from advisory
28 committees, councils and others as to what they think
29 worked well or needs improvement in the plan. So the time
30 when we'll need that is at that meeting, to consider with
31 all the folks that are involved, if, at this time the
32 Council does have some ideas, we'd certainly take those
33 down or if you, you know, whoever's closely involved want
34 to work on that afterwards -- as you know, Ron, we were
35 also hoping to have the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee up
36 in Allakaket towards the end of the month and review the
37 plan there and there may be some ideas from that meeting.
38 So any and all suggestions are welcomed basically.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Randy. One of
41 the issues I really want you to address, and maybe we could
42 work this through Kanuti Wildlife Refuge, but I want the
43 number of the hunters up in that area at the end of October
44 meeting in Allakaket.

45
46 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chairman.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Micki.

49
50 MR. STICKMAN: Glenn, I brought this up

00141

1 yesterday at Middle Yukon Advisory Committee and I'll bring
2 it up again today, some of the people here in Nulato, the
3 elders especially, when they take out young people to teach
4 them safe hunting practices, one of the thing that offended
5 some of the elders was keeping the evidence of sex on one
6 hindquarter.

7
8 MR. STOUT: Micki, probably it'd be best,
9 like yesterday, probably to have Brett speak to the legal
10 issues on that and give you some of his other information
11 relating to the hunt on that. I don't know if that would
12 be better for him to speak to that.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does Brett have a report?

15
16 MR. ROGERS: If I might mention while
17 Brett's on the way up, this is Randy Rogers again, with
18 regard to your request for data on the hunt up in the
19 northern part of 24 for this later October meeting, that's
20 going to be very difficult to come by because people aren't
21 required to even turn in their green harvest tickets until
22 30 days after the season. And with the winter season
23 coming up, people can hang onto those harvest cards until
24 April, so we're not going to get that data right away,
25 that's going to be tough.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right, thank you, Randy.
28 Did you have a report on enforcement or problems?

29
30 OFFICER GIBBONS: Yes, Brett Gibbons with
31 Fish and Wildlife Protection based out of Galena. I'll
32 start off by addressing Micki's question. The evidence of
33 sex requirement came into play a few years ago, statewide,
34 not just in this area and it's been in effect for a few
35 years. The reason it came into effect was because of abuse
36 during bull only hunts where antlers were being used as
37 evidence of sex. Antlers were being passed off from
38 different people and they were shooting cows and just
39 leaving the antlers with the meat as they'd bring it out of
40 the field as well as other people shooting bulls way back
41 off of the rivers or roadways where they couldn't pack them
42 from and they'd just bring the antlers out and shoot a cow
43 closer to that transportation point.

44
45 It was kind of a difficult thing to follow
46 and I don't know who came up with this suggestion, but
47 somewhere it came into play that if a portion of the male
48 sex organ was attached to one of the hindquarters, then
49 there'd be no disputing whether it was a bull or a cow.
50 And whereas it might be a pretty new concept to some of the

00142

1 folks in this area, I think it's pretty common in other
2 places and I know all around the state it's being adhered
3 to and also being enforced when it's not. We've tried to
4 work with the area residents here in kind of implementing
5 some education with this particular regulation since it
6 appears to be a new concept out here, and hopefully word's
7 spreading and I'm sorry if it's offensive to the elders but
8 it's a statewide regulation. It's probably not likely to
9 change any time soon, I haven't seen any proposals for it
10 to change anyway.

11
12 So I hope that answers your question,
13 Micki.

14
15 MR. STICKMAN: The only thing is you
16 probably saw a lot of people from this area that didn't
17 have the evidence of sex on their meat so I was wondering
18 were you giving these people citations and fining them or
19 what was going on? Because it's going to be a while before
20 it can really kick in because you know, as far as
21 regulation changes, people don't fully understand
22 regulations as it stands.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki. I think
25 it's on the agenda, I think we could pursue this in
26 introducing new proposals on this if we could. We spent a
27 good two or three hours at our Eastern and Western Interior
28 meeting last year and that was a waste of time, I don't
29 think anything came out of it. I can't remember any
30 proposals being generated at that time, was there, Vince?

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: (Nods negatively)

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Nope. Micki.

35
36 MR. STICKMAN: Thanks Ron.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: We can generate a proposal
39 to this effect but it will take some time and take a little
40 time, at least, put something before the Federal
41 Subsistence Board. Jack, you had a question or what -- no,
42 okay.

43
44 Okay, Brett, you had some more?

45
46 OFFICER GIBBONS: Yeah, I'll go ahead and
47 just continue on some other things. I would say, overall,
48 at first glance, the Koyukuk River Moose Hunter's Working
49 Group and the Department of Fish and Game seem to have come
50 up with a pretty effective plan in that area. As Glenn

00143

1 already stated, the hunter numbers were down, which
2 resulted in several things. One of which was immediately
3 apparent and with all the groups that I contacted,
4 conflicts between the different user groups were virtually
5 eliminated. The past couple of years there had been fuel
6 added to the fire and we had locals and non-locals getting
7 into fairly heated debates and some different things going
8 on and I haven't heard any instances of that happening
9 within the whole controlled use area this year, so that's a
10 real good thing.

11
12 With the limited number of permits for non-
13 residents, it didn't totally eliminate illegal guiding and
14 transporting but almost. There were several big groups
15 which had been in there in the past, all non-residents,
16 which it was pretty clear that's what was going on and
17 there was only basically one group of people that might
18 have been doing that in there this year, which is a big
19 reduction from the last few years.

20
21 Of the hunters I contacted, it seemed like
22 everyone was real happy with the quality of the hunts up
23 there, being able to find camping spots and being able to
24 hunt without the high level of boat traffic as in the past
25 two years.

26
27 A couple of things which had been big
28 problems in the past were wanton waste of sublegal bull
29 moose or just other moose for one reason or another. That
30 was down from about six moose last year that were just
31 completely left, not even cut open, cut down to two that we
32 found this year. So that's a pretty big decrease.

33
34 The unattended meat racks on the river
35 which have been a problem in the past, just all these racks
36 with no camps even near them and meat just turning black,
37 didn't see any of it at all this year.

38
39 The meat that was coming out for the most
40 part was pretty high quality meat. I, specifically only
41 smelled one moose that might have been starting to turn
42 sour, Glenn might have experienced something different.

43
44 The Kateel River did have an increased
45 amount of hunting pressure. I don't know whether or not
46 they took an increased number of moose out of there but
47 there were a lot more hunters.

48
49 The violations were still there on the
50 river, there was some failure to salvage all the meat and

00144

1 things like that. And people hunting within the controlled
2 use area without permits. But on the whole, I'd say the
3 violation rate was down from last year.

4
5 The displacement of hunters in this area, I
6 do a lot of flying in the area and the only place that
7 might have had increased number of hunters that I know of
8 in the area would have been possibly the Uki River. I
9 think there were maybe a couple more boats in that area
10 than in the past. And Kaltag, there were some people
11 hunting down there but when I talked to them they'd never
12 even hunted in this area at all before that, that just
13 happened to be where they want. All the vehicles at the
14 Yukon River bridge, I heard the exact opposite throughout
15 the complete season. I was never up there to say one way
16 or the other but people from my outfit as well as hunters
17 that came down who had seen how it was in the past, how
18 they couldn't even pull a vehicle off the road there they
19 said, wow, this is great we could actually find a parking
20 spot, this is a big decrease from years past.

21
22 MR. REAKOFF: That was around the 18th.

23
24 OFFICER GIBBONS: Okay, so maybe we got
25 conflicting stories on that, I wasn't there. That's about
26 all I have for up there. Like I said, for this being the
27 first year, in all appearances, things went a lot better up
28 there so we'll see what happens from here on out.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Brett.

31
32 MR. VENT: Mr. Chairman.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Darryl Vent.

35
36 MR. VENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good
37 to see you again Brett. There's one thing that we're
38 looking at after everybody's all done hunting we wanted to
39 go check these campsites out down the river. This year it
40 seems to me that they've been leaving more equipment, trash
41 and everything behind in some of these camps that we looked
42 at. We didn't have a chance to take pictures of it but,
43 you know, there's been a lot of reports from our people
44 that went down the river, they said there was more trash
45 being left behind, they're not really cleaning up their
46 camps. Maybe it was costing them too much to bring stuff
47 out, we don't know what the results were of that but I just
48 wanted to kind of point it out, maybe you can check it out
49 for us sometime and try to find out if that's true or not.

50

00145

1 OFFICER GIBBONS: Okay. I have seen a
2 couple spots where partial camps were left up the Koyukuk
3 River and I'll be contacting those people and dealing with
4 that. Whether or not this is the correct forum for the
5 next statement, I don't know, but I'll go ahead and make it
6 and you can get word out. That the only people leaving
7 trash on the river are not non-locals. At local kill sites
8 and campsites, I'm seeing a pretty high level of different
9 types of aluminum trash and things like that also. So
10 maybe that's just word that we all need to get out to
11 everybody that's hunting in our areas, local and non-local
12 alike.

13
14 MR. VENT: Yeah, there was one of our
15 elders that went down the river and he came upon one of
16 these camps and noticed there was a whole bunch in there
17 and they just left it so he picked up a whole bunch of it
18 and brought it back but he left some there that, you know,
19 it was left where they usually camp, around Butch's camp,
20 down below his camps and around there. I'm not too sure
21 where it was but, you know, he reported it and I said,
22 okay, well, I'll ask about it, maybe Brett might know. So
23 thanks.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Just another
26 item of improvement that we can work on, and it's so noted.
27 Shortly Gabe, we're getting ready to break for dinner.

28
29 MR. G. SAM: Yeah, I just wanted to say
30 that, you know, that Brett said.....

31
32 REPORTER: Gabe.

33
34 MR. G. SAM: Brett, stay there, I can't let
35 you off that easy.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gabe Sam.

38
39 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair, Brett made a
40 statement that the conflict is completely eliminated and
41 that's an incorrect statement. Because I've been over in
42 Huslia hunting there for three weeks, you know, mostly
43 hanging out with my family but doing a little monitoring
44 and talking to the elders and to the hunters, you know,
45 again, it's all surrounded by they guiding industry. The
46 guide comes to town, he's walking around with his .44
47 strapped to his side, you know, making comments, you know,
48 he's prepared, you know, so the conflict is still there.
49 It may not be as visible as before but, you know, there's
50 still conflict there. It's more of an inter-struggle in

00146

1 the community. It's not ever going to go away, I don't
2 think, you know, until the moose resource is gone. But
3 it's still there.

4
5 So I just wanted to make sure that's known.
6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's so noted. I, along
8 with you, do not think that it will ever go away. Do you
9 have any kind of response, Brett?

10
11 OFFICER GIBBONS: Just quickly. My
12 response is that as far as on the river, hunting camp or
13 kill site confrontations such as we'd been having in the
14 past, I haven't heard of a single instance of that, nor did
15 I get any reports of see anything happen in the village of
16 Huslia. If I did say that it was completely gone forever,
17 I guess that would be an incorrect statement. As far as I
18 know there weren't any in the field confrontations like we
19 had in the past.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Does this
22 conclude our report on the fall hunt on the Koyukuk? We
23 have another 20 minutes or so before people start
24 delivering food so I'd like to just go ahead and go into as
25 much as I could today. I think we'll finish easily
26 tomorrow. We have the Koyukuk River tribal task force on
27 the agenda. I think it was more for informational purposes
28 and I asked for it to be on there specifically to let the
29 Koyukuk River tribal task force know that we are concerned,
30 pretty much the same as you are with the same species, same
31 management efforts and I can't remember what else I asked
32 for it to be on the agenda for. But that was just for
33 informational purposes and to let the Koyukuk River tribal
34 task force know that we are keeping this on the books so
35 that it won't completely die or disappear. We'll use it if
36 we need it or implement it into our plan. I think that's
37 all I had it on there for.

38
39 Was there anything else, Vince?

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman. Just let
42 the record reflect that in your book under Tab F you have
43 all the original submission, Staff analysis and Staff
44 Committee action and then in your notebook that I gave you
45 after lunch, you got the Board's action on it. So you have
46 all the information on the tribal task force special
47 action.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Again, it
50 was just for informational purposes. I'd like to go into

00147

1 proposal generations, recommendations for 2000.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that will
4 fall to me and I'll have Donald pass out a recent fax that
5 came in which goes over what went last year with your
6 recommendations. So he'll pass it out, it just came in
7 with Pete when he flew in. It is what I've talked to you
8 over the years, it's what's called the .805C letter. When
9 I mentioned earlier in our discussion on Proposal 32, that
10 the Board can only reject your proposals if it's not based
11 on substantial evidence, if it violates recognized
12 principles of wildlife conservation or if it's detrimental
13 to subsistence uses. So this is a requirement that the
14 Board respond to your recommendations.

15

16 Due to the lateness of this letter, I had
17 to generate kind of a chart for you that's in your notebook
18 that's mustard colored or yellow colored. But basically
19 last year you looked at 12 proposals, 11 of those, your
20 recommendations aligned with Board action, zero of them was
21 any divergence between your recommendation and the Board
22 action. There was one that was not clear. And it had to
23 deal with the evidence of sex. You looked at Proposal 20
24 which was to address the evidence of sex remain attached
25 for Units 11 and 13, so on Page 3 of your mustard colored
26 thing is the response. You supported it and I don't know
27 if this is alignment or not that's why I put it as a
28 question mark. Your action was support with modification
29 to have the head with flesh attached with or without the
30 antlers attached or with hoof attached to the hindquarters.
31 Both Eastern and Western Interior Regional Councils jointly
32 reviewed this proposal. The Federal Subsistence Board
33 action was they passed it as modified by the Southcentral
34 Council to be for Units 11 and 13, where the hunter may
35 possess either a significant portion of the external sex
36 organs still attached to the portion of the carcass or the
37 head with or without the antlers attached to indicate the
38 sex of harvested moose. The Board also included a Federal
39 registration permit for Unit 11.

40

41 So I didn't know if your recommendation
42 aligned with what the Board did so I put it as a question
43 mark. But that's only for Units 11 and 13 and that's
44 really what happened with your recommendations. So if
45 there are any questions I can -- I or other Staff can
46 attempt to answer them.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Vince on
49 this old proposal. Vince, maybe you could rewrite it and
50 reintroduce it in some different way because we'll have to

00148

1 address this issue sooner or later, I mean, until it gets
2 resolved.

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Ida just
5 informed me that one of the Councils submitted a proposal
6 so I don't know which Council it was and then yesterday
7 there was a proposal submitted at the local -- the Middle
8 Yukon Local Fish and Game Advisory Committee, and I'm
9 trying to find that right now. Maybe Ida can tell -- was
10 there a Council that -- oh, okay, I misunderstood the word,
11 Council, so it was the Huslia Tribal Council and I believe
12 Jack Holchese may want to talk about that particular
13 proposal since it addresses the evidence of sex.

14

15 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida.

18

19 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
20 Committee Member. Mr. Chairman, the Federal Subsistence
21 proposals are open until the 27th of October and yesterday
22 at the advisory council meeting Jack Holchese from Huslia
23 submitted a proposal to both the advisory council to go
24 into the State system and he gave me a copy
25 that I gave to Vince that he wants entered into the Federal
26 system. It's just a proposal that if this is on the agenda
27 to address proposals he would like to present that to the
28 Council.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, that's
31 correct. I got it confused there. It is not on evidence
32 of sex and it will come up later on the agenda. And if I
33 understood what you were saying is you were intimating that
34 maybe a proposal needs to be written from the Western
35 Interior addressing the evidence of sex?

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that's what I would
38 like to direct the office do. Orville, just shortly.
39 Before we go on, you notice that first thing in the
40 morning, we recognize all the tribes, I would like to add
41 the lower part of the agenda, No. XII to move that over
42 until tomorrow, I think we can finish easy tomorrow if
43 there are no objections from the Council. Because we'll be
44 recognizing all the councils in the morning for their
45 questions or proposals that may come before us.

46

47 Orville Huntington.

48

49 MR. HUNTINGTON: I would only request that
50 I get to go kind of early in the agency reports because I

00149

1 don't have much to present and I'm mostly here to answer
2 questions. But one thing on evidence of sex, I had to do
3 that with my brother and I didn't like doing that this
4 fall, it was the only one we had to do like that. I it was
5 kind of odd, I wasn't used to doing it. What we did was --
6 we did it the way he wanted to but I said if I had to do it
7 I would just leave that part of the skin on there because
8 the skin on that part of cow moose and a bull moose is
9 different, everybody knows that, right on the, you know,
10 what I mean?

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Was there anything else on
15 the 2000 recommendations or was that the only one that they
16 had conflict with?

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I'm a little
19 bit lost here. We just went over the recommendations and
20 what happened with last years proposals. You're indicating
21 that a proposal needs to be written dealing with the
22 requirement of evidence of sex for this area. And then
23 there was Micki's proposal under his concerns on the half-
24 mile restriction in my notes. And then Mike Walleri,
25 representing the co-management team has submitted four
26 proposals yesterday to my office so we do have some
27 proposals. Now, let me explain to you, when we provide
28 them at this time, we're not expecting any recommendations,
29 there really doesn't have to be any discussion unless you
30 want clarification from the authors or maybe you want to
31 get Staff preliminary inputs on it. So I'll stop and get
32 direction from you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. At this time I think
35 that's all we're doing right now, too, is just gathering
36 information for proposals. And if we do introduce them,
37 when do they come up before the Board, we have until the
38 27th of this month to submit them?

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, the due date is October
41 27th, individuals, groups or et cetera, can submit them by
42 the 27th. If the Council wants to write some we could take
43 one or two of you and Pete, George or I or Donald can try
44 to craft a proposal, your concern on the evidence of sex.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I would appreciate
47 that. Did we have anything else under proposals from the
48 Council. If not, we'll go into other wildlife issues and
49 then we'll go ahead and take a break until tomorrow
50 morning. C, other wildlife issues, 1, pending legislation

00150

1 on illegal transporters. Who do we have on that?

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I don't see
4 Randy here, he was going to provide an update or maybe Mr.
5 Morgan might also on that. Remember these agendas are
6 generated months ago so things have evolved. But when
7 Randy called me he said he'd be willing to provide some
8 background on the pending legislation.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. And I
11 forgot Orville, I apologize. But Orville Huntington will
12 be coming on fairly early as he wishes, and I did invite
13 him to attend this meeting so I'll put him on fairly early.
14 And Willie, if you want to make a presentation you can do
15 it fairly early because both Orville and Willie were
16 invited guests and they may take off earlier than we do if
17 they can.

18

19 As far as illegal transporters, I just
20 wanted to hear more from Willie on how they were addressing
21 it, did you have anything else to add besides what you
22 talked about earlier?

23

24 MR. GOODWIN: Well, the only other thing I
25 wanted to report is that one of these new transporters was
26 caught in the Selawik Refuge and he didn't have a permit so
27 the Fish and Wildlife Service, instead of citing him, gave
28 him a permit. That kind of blew all our minds, you know,
29 why they didn't cite him, they raised some grey areas in
30 the enforcement on that because this guy came in with a
31 float plane. But as far as I can tell, when the
32 Subsistence Office took over management of the fisheries,
33 that included navigable water. That question was clear in
34 my mind. But the Fish and Wildlife Service interpreted it
35 different and didn't cite this transporter but gave him a
36 permit.

37

38 As far as the other areas, we know there
39 are other people coming up but they haven't been caught,
40 you know. Unit 23 is kind of -- it's not concentrated just
41 for like moose, it's for moose and caribou so they bring
42 their hunters everywhere up there. We think it's
43 happening. We know there's a lot of traffic in the
44 Squirrel River and the Selawik now. So we're trying to
45 address that problem, like I told you earlier, about how we
46 want to change the regulatory -- the agencies that do the
47 regulations on permits.

48

49 Thank you.

50

00151

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Willie. I think
2 maybe I'd like to sit down with Vince on that and -- not
3 during this meeting but I mean after we go home just on the
4 phone to see if we can generate any kind of proposal to
5 address this issue. Would that be okay?

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: (Nods affirmatively)

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Do we have anything
10 to add on transporters.

11
12 MR. GOODWIN: There's too many of them.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's for sure. Anything
15 else from the Council. It's getting late, everybody looks
16 tired. We're losing all our listeners, so let's go into
17 our pending legislation on wanton waste.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Again, that was going to --
20 it was just to bring an update and I don't know if
21 Representative Morgan has an update on that.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

24
25 MR. MORGAN: Well, as you know I did
26 prefile this the beginning of last year in January. And we
27 started doing our homework and started looking at the issue
28 and how do we rewrite or redefine wanton waste. We called
29 the different agencies, the different way they prosecute
30 and we were looking at history, when did it start beginning
31 to be a big problem, maybe there's a solution to this, and
32 we came up that the problem started when the air taxi
33 operators started coming in. They were unregulated. And
34 you know, basically where they deal with is bottom line, is
35 money. The more people they bring in the more money they
36 make. And we looked at who mostly is the violators were
37 non-residents.

38
39 So if this issue is not a dead issue, I'd
40 like to say it's in the slow cooker, it's just getting
41 tenderized and there's more than one way to skin a cat,
42 that it started with the non-residents, with the air taxi
43 operators. And we heard of an air taxi operator yesterday,
44 he takes only a limited number, he charged more, they still
45 come to him, he lets them pay for it, he teaches them how
46 to -- watch him skin the moose, treat it right, seal all
47 the game bags, don't put it in plastic bags, leave the bone
48 in and I think it takes education. And that's one that's
49 still going to come up and we're looking at give the Board
50 of Game the same power that the Board of Fish has because

00152

1 of -- in some areas, wanton waste may not be an issue and
2 in some areas it could be. And that's one way instead of
3 trying to perfect the whole State of one regulation, a
4 perfect example is the organs left on moose.

5
6 You know, once you make a regulation change
7 and put into the books it goes statewide, it effects
8 everybody. So we're still looking at that but in the
9 meantime a couple other issues came up with the predator
10 control on wolves in different parts of the state and then
11 the initiative process on wildlife, that took a lot of
12 time. So to save this wanton waste issue, we pulled it out
13 so it don't die in any committees. Because it's like any
14 other bill you do or motion you make in any council, it's
15 relevant right up to the top. You got to know how to --
16 you got to line up your bullets when you introduce a bill,
17 you've got to make sure it passes. You got to know before
18 you introduce, before you do it. There's no use
19 introducing a bill and you've got to do a lot of homework
20 so it goes through process smoothly. You got to know what
21 committees, you got to recommend which committees it will
22 go through. The less committees it goes to the more it's
23 going to pass. The way you kill a bill, you just assign a
24 whole bunch of committees to it and the process just slows
25 down. And it takes a lot of negotiating and that's a
26 little finesse in that.

27
28 But the wanton waste, I truly believe we've
29 got to regulate air taxi operators. I believe that all
30 non-resident hunters should be guided. And it should be a
31 number, it should be a lottery, you hit that certain number
32 and that's where it stops. These people are still going to
33 pay the money to hunt. They're getting forced out of
34 different countries, if you're going to force them out of
35 Northwest Territories they're going to move, if you force
36 them out of Koyukuk, you get more restrictive they're going
37 to move. So I think we got to control it and look at it
38 statewide.

39
40 This issue, I don't think is going to die.
41 It's one that keeps coming up and there have been areas,
42 ways of thinking and traditional and customary values are
43 not the same, so we've got to educate them and that's a
44 process in itself. But I think you've got to line up your
45 bullets. At this time we're too busy on two issues, the
46 predator and the initiative to try to put this on, and to
47 save it we just pulled it, so the issue's not dead it's
48 still there.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. Did we

00153

1 have anything else on this Vince?

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: No. Other than I think
4 tomorrow you're going to bring up these different proposals
5 and we'll bring them up.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Incorporate it into one of
8 these proposals or something?

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Right. Like the ones that
11 Micki was talking about. Staff here has several proposals,
12 potential proposals of alignment. You've done that for
13 several years, alignment with State seasons is more liberal
14 or whatever. And then there was a request from Gabe Sam to
15 have some kind of proposal or discussion about a proposal
16 on bear parts.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. So that's as far as
19 we want to go on wanton waste for now. Number 3, bear
20 parts for handicrafts, again, is that for a proposal?

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. I don't know if Gabe
23 is still here, he's the one that requested that be on the
24 agenda and I think they were looking at drafting a proposal
25 or something to that effect.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

28

29 MR. JONES: Yeah, this is Benedict Jones.
30 I attended the Game Board, Fish and Game Board, asked me to
31 represent on the bear parts issue in August so we had a
32 full day of meetings at the Fish and Game Board office and
33 we discussed a lot of things. We looked at the customary
34 trade issue and there were several representatives there,
35 one from the University of Alaska, a retired doctor, a
36 professor and also Joe Madee, fur buyer. We looked at the
37 issue of bear parts for sale and the market and the main
38 concern was the bear claws and bear bladders. And Joe
39 Madee reported that bear bladders, we heard rumors there
40 was a high demand in china and black market is doing an
41 operation in that. And these catalogs, he showed us a
42 catalog that there was hardly any marketing for bear claws
43 and bladders. So we eliminated brown bear and the grizzly
44 bear claws and teeth on the issue. So we focused the
45 attention on black bear claws, bladder and other bear parts
46 like the teeth and so we came to conclusion at the meeting
47 at the end of the day, so it's up to the Board. They're
48 going to reconsider it before the next Board meeting that
49 any parts of the black bear parts will be prohibited for
50 sale, and that's pending handicraft, too.

00154

1 Because we felt, as a Native traditional,
2 the elders, when they had the bear claws for necklace or
3 something like that, only the elders that wore those bear
4 claws or teeth were the original bow and arrow and spear
5 hunting bear hunters that are seen in my life, so we came
6 to the conclusion that black bear parts will not be for
7 sale.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. Before
12 we go any further, I just want you to know that we'll
13 review and gather information on proposals, whether we pass
14 them or not or pass them on up is a different matter. But
15 we pass most of them. And you still have your own
16 prerogative if you want to submit proposals from your own
17 tribal council. One of the -- a couple of recent ones that
18 we had teleconferences on passed with flying colors, like
19 Micki did through Nulato Council. Darryl Vent.

20
21 MR. VENT: Yeah, just a comment on that
22 selling bear parts. This came over the Yukon Flats region,
23 they were putting in a proposal that they were using it in
24 their Indian bead work and stuff to -- or intended for sale
25 and we looked at that and that was not the use in our areas
26 for the bear parts and we would not do that to the animals
27 because of our beliefs. So what Benedict was talking
28 about, that's where we're standing on this subject. But
29 Gabe and Stanley had more of an in-depth look at it but
30 they're not here right now. So I was just here to comment
31 on that.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I appreciate
34 your clarification, too. I didn't know where that came
35 from, that handicrafts kind of threw me off. Thank you.

36
37 Willie.

38
39 MR. GOODWIN: Mr. Chairman, I just want to
40 thank you for inviting me over. I am probably going to
41 leave tomorrow morning. And I appreciate the chance to
42 share our points of view from the Northwest on some of the
43 issues that you're discussing here and I look forward to
44 working with you on some of ours on how we're trying to
45 solve some of our problems.

46
47 Thank you. Thank you very much.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: I appreciate your presence
50 and your input. We might have thrown in a few

00155

1 complications in your area to -- through the moose working
2 group. Thank you for your presence again and if you take
3 off early, you'll be hearing from us again.

4
5 Thank you. Vince, do we have anything
6 else?

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Just that Donald and I have
9 your travel advances so we're ready to give those out if
10 you want to during dinner, before dinner or whatever.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, during dinner.

13
14 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chairman.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micki.

17
18 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, on the sale of
19 bear parts, Middle Yukon Advisory Committee passed a
20 resolution rejecting any kind of sale bear parts yesterday
21 at our regular meeting. So I just wanted to have the
22 Council know that.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Darryl, did you
25 pick that up, talk with Micki after this.

26
27 What's the feeling of the Council, time to
28 eat, time to break?

29
30 MR. STICKMAN: Break until tomorrow.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Break until 9:00 o'clock in
33 the morning.

34
35 IN UNISON: (Nodding affirmatively)

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think we can finish in
38 another day. Most of us travel on Friday anyway.

39
40 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

41
42 * * * * *

00156

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the
State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby
certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 155 contain a
full, true and correct Transcript of the WESTERN INTERIOR
FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I
taken electronically by Salena Hile on the 4th day of October
2000, beginning at the hour of 8:30 o'clock a.m. at the Nulato
Tribal Hall, Nulato, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under
my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge
and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested
in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 17th day of October 2000.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 04/17/04